CHRISTMAS NUMBER

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Of the Church · By the Church · For the Church

Luther League Review

The · Official · Organ · of the Luther · League · of America

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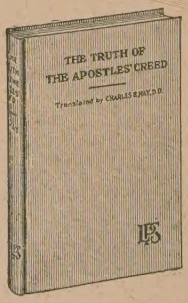

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Of the Church - By the Church - For the Church

Luther League Review

"The Nativity"

THE birth of Christ is simply told. Christmas is of universal appeal. This wonderful fact of Christmas—the birth of Christ—appeals to Christian humility and trust. This season brings Christmas to us again. As Milton says:

"This is the month, and this the happy morn,
Wherein the Son of heaven's eternal king,
Of wedded Maid, and Virgin Mother born,
Our great redemption from above did bring;
For so the holy sages once did sing,
That He our deadly forfeit should release,
And with His Father work us a perpetual peace."

"It was the winter wild,
While the heaven-born child
All meanly wrapt in the rude manger lies;
Nature in awe to Him
Had dofft her gaudy trim,
With her great Master so to sympathize.

THE NATIVITY

The Christmas fact measures God's love toward man. It sounds the depths of the ocean of divine love. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son: that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." The Christian's highest grace is an obedient faith to our Lord's Christmas witness of God's love.

Triumphant strains of music broke forth at Christ's birth. Rapturous songs of joy are the Christmas hymns. Blissful rapture of that sweet music today echoes in the souls of men. Thousands with Christmas joy everywhere sing:

"Ring out, ye crystal spheres,
Once bless our human ears,
If ye have power to touch our senses so;
And let your silver chime
Move in melodious time,
And let the base of heaven's deep organ blow;
And with your ninefold harmony,
Make up full consort to the angelic symphony."

"For if such holy song
Inwrap our fancy long,
Time will run back, and fetch the age of gold,
And speckled Vanity
Will sicken soon and die,
And leprous Sin will melt from earthly mould;
And Hell itself will pass away,
And leave her dolorous mansions to the peering day."

With the angelic chorus, Heaven's door swung open and tidings of joy were brought by God's messengers. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The promise made in Eden was fulfilled in this pean.

The nativity, when "all Heaven and earth in happier union" was held in wonder and amaze, is pictured by Hofmann. His painting "The Nativity" reproduced on the cover page is the moment when Heaven's sweet music is the lullaby of our kinsman Redeemer. "The Nativity" is one of Hofmann's beautiful ideal conceptions of biblical events.

Universal peace reigned on earth the first Christmas. The mighty calm at the time of Christ's birth is well pictured by the poet:

"Nor war, or battle's sound
Was heard the world around:
The idle spear and shield were high up hung,
The hooked chariot stood
Unstain'd with hostile blood,
The trumpet spake not to the armed throng,
And kings sat still with awful eye,
As if they surely knew their sovereign Lord was by."

"But peaceful was the night
Wherein the Prince of light
His reign of peace upon the earth began:
The winds with wonder whist
Smoothly the waters kist,
Whispering new joys to the mild ocean,
Who now hath quite forgot to rave,
While birds of calm sit brooding on the charmed wave."

Painter, poet and preacher press home the thought and emphasize the truth—"Christ the Lord, our Saviour, everlasting God and Mary's Son, we praise thee evermore."

What calm beautiful peace! How unearthly! How Heavenly! "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you: let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." When the Prince of Heaven, as the Babe of Bethlehem, came there was a rift in the dark tempestuous cloud of earth's turmoil. The Church ever since has worshiped her Lord, the Prince of Peace, as the mighty God.

Christmas is a great and holy festival. Blessed is its joy where faith accepts its gift of love. Christmas cheer is made the gladder by thoughts of obedient trust, rapturous joy and heavenly peace. Christmas has fuller meaning, even in a sin-cursed and war-scourged world, to those who know this child in his human, sympathetic personality as friend and brother. The nativity of this child is the Word made flesh.

BOOK REVIEWS

CHRIST'S HUMILIATION, by Rev. L. Simon, A. M. Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, Ohio. Paper. 5c. per copy.

CATECHISM LESSONS FOR LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL, Adolf T. Hanser. Editor, Lutheran Publishing Company, Buffalo, N. Y.

HISTORICAL LUTHERANISM, Mrs. H. E. Monroe. A new edition of this valuable booklet revised and conformed to many changes suggested by the Quadri-Centennial Committee. Paper. Lutheran Pub. Society, Philadelphia. 5c. per copy; 40c. per dozen.

SOUVENIR SEMINARY WARTBURG, Dubuque, Iowa. A handsome souvenir by Prof. George F. Fritschel of the dedication of the new seminary buildings at Dubuque, Iowa.

"Christmas on the Mountain Top"

BY LAURA WADE RICE, OF THE JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE COMMITTEE.

"WELL—what's the good, anyway?"

"Good of what?"

"Oh—what you are going to do, and what's been done all these hundreds of years—and now, the way they are undoing it all, over there in Europe." Carl turned over on his brown leaf-bed and swung his right arm out, pointing eastward. "What's the good?"

The young doctor smiled at him. "Because Christmas is coming," he replied.

Jack spoke up then. "Did you see that letter of remonstrance some Indians wrote a year ago? That they had given up warpaint and scalps and had learned to live in peace—why should those who live in peace go back to savagery?"

"The heathens poke fun at us and say our preaching's no good. Lots of cartoons show it." Henry skimmed a pebble out into the air, it fell hundreds of feet below, in the valley. "What's the good?"

"Hikes," said their leader, concisely, "getting to the top of the mountain, to a place where you can see way off and up to the sky. S'pose some fellows do flunk, or stay below trying to get each other's luggage—the mountain top is here, and the sky and the river yonder! Poor taste they show, I think!"

Carl sat up. "But some of them had gotten to the top. Why didn't they stay there?"

"Nations or men?" was the quick rejoinder.

"Oh—why, they are Christian nations, I s'pose."

"You know it is only 's'pose.' Do you really mean to say you think any nation on the face of the earth is truly Christian? Why, how much politics or diplomacy or commerce do you boys really think come up to Christ's absolute laws? Have the nations ever tried loving their enemies and doing good to them that hated them? His rules haven't failed; they haven't been tried since the year 300! Up to then no Christian would take revenge or fight. With ten great persecutions against them they would not fight—but they grew from eleven fishermen to eight million followers of the Prince of Peace. Constantine needed them and he bought them with gold and honors—same things they are after in the dismal death valleys today. Nations? No—but *men!* Men—lots of men on the battlefield today—love peace more than they ever did before; they are getting it *inside;* before, it only meant a quiet time to live easy in, or moke money in, or have a good time in. It is *men* who climb to the mountain top. I'm going to India to cure men and help the Prince to save them one at a time.

'Tis weary watching wave by wave,
But yet the tide creeps onward.
We climb like corals, grave by grave,
Yet pave a path that's sunward.
Though beaten back in many a fray,
A newer strength we borrow,
And where the vanguard camps today
The rear shall rest tomorrow.

"Until we come to the perfect manhood—unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

"Sounds good," observed Jack, concisely.

"Come on, fellows," said the Doctor, getting up and stretching himself; "or we won't get the greens and holly for our mission school fixin's. 'Tisn't often you can sit among the leaves this late in December."

Connie, youngest of the group, remonstrated. "Lots of time 'fore dark! It's fine here, you can see so far. Besides, you told Carl that what's the good was because Christmas was coming. What was that for?"

The young leader swung himself back and forth, holding to a bough of overhanging cedar. His eyes looked as if they, indeed, saw very far.

"I'll tell you what I see," he said quietly. "Away back in time, in a far land, an old man stood by his tent door and looked up at the stars. He knew he was to begin a new and wonderful plan. All the tribes around him had gods, idols who, they thought, blessed them with crops and herds. Each man tried to get the best of the others. But the God of this old man had a different plan. He had said, 'I will bless thee, and *thou shalt be a blessing.* In thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.' Old Abraham's son, Isaac, said, 'It is better to dig wells than to fight.' His wells are here today in blessing, still quenching thirst—his enemies' spears are rust. I see other old men promising in God's name a Wonderful One who should be not a warrior, but the Prince of Peace. He should be born, not in palace or fortress, but in *Bethlehem*—the word means 'the house of bread.' The angels might have brought any God-chosen message to the shepherds. The one they did sing was, 'Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men.' They came all the way from Heaven to make that the chorus to the announcement of the coming of the Prince.

"The best of earth are in His retinue. It is marching up to the top of the mountain where the Kingdom of the Lord is to be set up. I'm bound to be in it. I'm going out to India to get followers for the Prince of Peace. I want you, with all your strength, to do the same thing here—or there—if He calls you to go. Why? Because, when His retinue is gathered, Christmas is coming! Some day He will come again, back to earth, back to the mountain top! I want to be there if I'm still alive; not down in the valley squabbling over the feed or the goods. We haven't time to fight and kill, we Christians; we must save and give life everywhere in 'the name of the Prince.'"

They rose and stood silent, looking down into the valley. Soon this comrade-friend, who had given so much of himself to them while he prepared for his life work, would be far away.

"Your Christmas that is coming seems a long way off," said Jack, with a wistful note in his voice.

"But it is sure. His promise cannot fail! Some day His Church shall stand for peace with the Prince of Peace! Then many nations shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths' (the paths of peace). And He shall judge among many nations, and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Then my Prince and your Prince will be shown to be King of kings and Lord of lords. It is worth living for, boys! Then, truly, we will sing again the angels' song:

Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth Peace,
Good will to men."

Christmas in Sweden

BY MRS. CLARA K. ANDERSON.

CHRISTMAS is celebrated in every home in Sweden and the festivities extend over a period of two weeks. First comes Christmas Eve, then Christmas Day and second day Christmas and third day Christmas, all of which are celebrated with feasting and merry-making. After a slight lull these social activities thrust forth again in family dinners and reunions on New Year's Day. Again on January 6th, called thirteenth day Christmas, and finally on January 13th or 20th day Yule are the Christmas celebrations concluded.

Everyone has been busy since early fall. Such buying and planning, for every relative and friend must have a gift! As Christmas draws near little booths are erected along the sidewalks of the main streets where Christmas articles are offered for sale. It would be fine to mingle with the laughing merry crowds that throng the streets which are brilliantly lighted as early as three o'clock of an afternoon for the days are short at this time of the year.

The day before Christmas the market places are filled with Christmas trees, and before dark every home has one. These are decorated with glass balls and ornaments and many candles. Sometimes cotton wool is added so that the tree appears to be covered with snow. No gifts hang from the tree; there are probably too many.

As soon as it is dark the candles are lighted, the doors are opened and all the children admitted. How they admire the tree. They join hands and dance around the tree. All members of the household, cooks, maids, and men servants join in this dance which is called the long dance. Nuts, candies and cookies are passed and partaken by all. After this the gifts are distributed. All are neatly tied, and in many cases a verse of original poetry accompanies it. These verses must be read aloud, and they usually provoke much laughter.

In the evening groups of servants carry gifts to friends of their masters. As they are masked there is no clue to their identity, and as the recipients of the gifts endeavor to ascertain from whom the gifts have come, all adds to the merriment of the occasion.

The typical Christmas supper consists first of "Lut fisk," which is a form of codfish. It takes nine days to prepare this fish. It is soaked in clear water for three days, then in lye solution for three days, then in water for three days. On the day it is served it is boiled and a rich cream or butter gravy is served with it. After

(*Continued on page* 22.)

Luther League of Illinois

Twenty-second Annual Convention at Chicago, September 29, 30 and Nov. 1, 1916

BY MRS. MINNIE L. BOEDECKER.

CHICAGO was the convention city for the twenty-second annual convention of the Luther League of Illinois; Zion Norwegian Lutheran Church, and St. Paul's English Lutheran Church were the convention churches.

On Friday evening, September 29, a large number of delegates gathered at Zion Church, where the first four sessions were held. "Christian Warfare" was the theme of the convention. The various papers and addresses upon this subject were unusually interesting and inspiring.

First Session.

Rev. C. S. Vang, Pastor loci, welcomed the young people as follows:

The members of Zion Church are glad that it became possible to hold the convention of the State League here at this time. I am glad to have the opportunity to welcome you to our Church. It so happened that I was out of the city at the time it was decided to have the convention, but some of the young friends wrote me about it, and I could read between the lines that there was considerable enthusiasm in Zion Church for this convention.

We are glad you are here, and I want to take this opportunity to welcome you. We have been looking forward to this convention ever since it was made known that it would be held here in our Church. We would of course have taken an interest in it, even if it had been at another church, but it came a little closer to us when it was decided to have it here. There are several reasons why we were looking forward to this convention. In the first place, because we believe that the friends gathered here have a common interest with us, and we are always glad to extend a welcome hand to those who are seeking to work in the footsteps of our Master. In the second place, we have been looking forward to this convention, because we expect that it will help us in a large degree, stimulate us, and inspire us. We welcome you, and hope that we may all together experience the presence of God. May it be said when the convention is over that it was an unqualified success. It is needless to tell you that the members of Zion Church will do their best to make this possible. Again I welcome you.

Mr. Jonas Foss, President of the Luther League of Chicago, welcomed the delegates in the name of the Chicago district:

I am particularly gratified to welcome you on behalf of the Luther League of Chicago, because I know the great benefits that will accrue to our 1,500 or 2,000 members; because I know that a larger percentage of our members will be at this convention than if it had been held out of the city; because I know also that there is great benefit to be derived from conventions.

I somewhat look upon a convention as a huge dynamo where we come together with the live wires of our organization, and if we are not charged with enthusiasm by being present in such a gathering of the leaders and workers in our organization, we are not human beings; there is something radically wrong with us if we do not go away from this convention benefited and enthused and inspired to confine our efforts in our various local fields. So on behalf of the Luther League of Chicago I welcome you to our city; I welcome you that you may enjoy yourselves here. There are things that men and women like that can be obtained here, both spiritual and for our enjoyment.

DELEGATES ATTENDING ILLINOIS CONVENTION

Mr. August Brissman, Rock Island, President of the Luther League of Illinois, responded by saying:

To these words of welcome, I wish to say "thank you." You have made us feel we are welcome in this congregation and that we are welcome in the Chicago district. We were pleased to learn this League was so enthusiastic about the convention, and was anxious to have us come. If that were not true, this convention would not be a success. If those who entertain are not enthusiastic, a successful convention is impossible. We hope this may be a rousing

convention and bring benefits to your League. Those who have had conventions know this is true, that the benefit will accrue to the local League. We are pleased to be welcomed again in the Chicago district. It was four years ago that we were welcomed here, also on the west side of Chicago.

We in the tri-cities know what a great benefit a state convention is. The convention held there two years ago left an impression upon the district which revived enthusiasm. We hope that such will be the case in the Chicago district.

After singing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," the keynote address, "The Organization of the Christian Army," was delivered by Rev. C. E. Tiller, of Chicago. Rev. Tiller said:

In considering the organization of a Christian army, we must of necessity presuppose an enemy to battle against.

Some people tell us that we have, as Christians, no enemy to fight; that there is in reality no sin, and the only thing for us is to be good and that is all; but the infallible Word of God tells us "That we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places, wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God."

As Christians, we have been called upon to be soldiers of Jesus Christ, even as Paul admonishes Timothy. Christian young members of the "Church of the Reformation"! You are called upon to be soldiers in the army of Jesus Christ. Your warfare is not uncertain. Your Captain is tried and tested. He is the hero from Golgotha. Look back upon the achievements of the army of God in your Church. No army ever recorded such achievements and brought home such laurels.

In our battles no selfish ends are to be attained. We battle for the saving of immortal souls. With Jesus Christ as leader to battle against the enemy of our soul, and with victory assured, is it not worth while for young men and women to enlist in such an army. In the Luther League you are in the training camp for such an army. Jesus Christ, your Captain, makes use of your League as a recruiting station for the organization of a mighty army of young men and women to combat every enemy of His Church.

It is not enough that we come forth like Gideon's thousands for a moment, but that we are prepared to stick to our post like Gideon's 300 in the day of conflict and danger. It is not enough to be on the Christian side with the world's multitude for a time. We need the strength and perseverance which will hold out with the few, when the multitudes fall away. We need men of prayer, men of earnest faith, cross bearing men, men whose conversation is in heaven and who are waiting for Christ. They are the men who will fight the real battle, and who, in the name of Jesus Christ, will win the real victory. The danger of the Church in the present day is to rely too much on the machinery of her institutions instead of seeking the vital power in the crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ, which alone can inspire for spiritual work. The large numbers, elaborate organizations, gifts and genius of individual men, good as they are, will not avail unless blessed by this one supreme source of success.

The proclaiming of the pure and unadulterated Word of God is ths sword of the Spirit, and this everlasting Gospel we must be true to and proclaim to the world. The Gospel is a sword not only in the hand, but in the mouth. It is a two-edged sword in the words and deeds of a Christian soldier; the sword of God and His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Let the clarion tone of this Gospel of Jesus Christ be sounded forth in the world as instruments in the hands of Christian soldiers. Sing aloud the praises of your God, ye Daughters of Zion! Luther Leaguers! Come forth as men and women, weighed in the balance of God's Holy Word, tried, tested and trained in the Church with an open Bible, and let your lights shine before the world. The lives of Christian men and women will be signal lights shining and flashing in the world's darkest night, routing the powers of darkness and spurring every Christian soldier on to victory.

Christian young men and women, enlisted and organized as soldiers in the "Church of the Reformation," the Church with the Biblical slogan, "Justification by Faith," remember the promise of your Captain "That the powers of hell shall not prevail against you" and "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

I have a vision of Luther Leaguers, tried, tested and trained, going forth in the same army, under the same Captain, with their torches of Gospel light and a clear sound from their Gospel trumpet, like a Gideon's army, in willing obedience to their Master's command, proclaiming loudly the power of God to save to the uttermost, victoriously marching on to Zion.

President Brissman appointed the following Credentials Committee:

Mrs. Minnie L. Boedecker, Miss Ethel Peterson, Miss Vera Krohns, Miss Gertrude Landgraf.

Second Session.

The second session (Saturday morning) was opened with devotional services led by Rev. A. P. Lentz.

These papers were read at this session:

"The Purpose of Christian Warfare," by Emery C. Kirkman, Woodstock, as follows:

Our theologians when teaching the doctrines of the Church, state that the Church is properly divided into the Church militant and the Church triumphant. Dr. Jacobs says, "The Church militant is composed of the regenerate who in the world are in constant conflict with Satan."

The first great aim of Christian warfare is to fight against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, wicked spirits. When we stop to think what is included in these words, our very power of thought is confounded within us, but nevertheless we know it to be true, for surely man alone even in his depravity could not have conceived and brought about the immensity of the present world war, the greatness of its horrors, its fearful hatred, its fiendishness. It must have its origin in principalities and powers presided over by rulers of darkness and wicked spirits.

When we think of all this, is not our aim and purpose too large, too immense for us to accomplish? Will the world ever listen or take heed when we fight the evil with the spiritual weapons? If we were to rely on our own powers we would say, yes, it is too large. But history tells us differently. Did not Luther cause the very foundations of the kingdom of evil to tremble with the fearful assaults he made upon it with the sword of the Spirit? God's Word tells us why we can attempt this much. We have Christ with us, and His all-powerful Word.

There are thousands of Christians who sit down and fold their hands and say what is the use when we fight one evil, others constantly spring up? But look at the work of Wichern, Elizabeth Frey, Florence Nightingale and hosts of others. How they fought against evil and how their fights continue to the present day, although they are resting in peace. If all Christians would fight with that same purpose how speedily God's kingdom would come.

Then comes the fight within ourselves. The many sins, the many temptations, the ignorance, the unbelief with which we must wrestle. We must daily fight the good fight of faith. The purpose of Christian warfare is threefold, but its one great aim is to fight Satan. Let us then fight that we may be in the victorious host pictured to us in these words:

"There is the throne of David,
And there from care released,
The song of them that triumph,
The shout of them that feast;
And they, who, with their Leader,
Have conquered in the fight,
Forever and forever
Are clad in robes of white."

"The Armor Worn by a Christian Soldier" was presented by Miss Anna Anderson, Chicago.

Our subject speaks of the Christian soldier. The

Christian soldier, or the soldier of Jesus Christ, refuses to take advantage of the worldly armors. He is the one who has made a tremendous effort to abolish militarism and navalism and to dispose of the doctrine that such armors are an absolute necessity for the peace of the world.

We have seen that militarism and navalism are not the armor worn by a Christian soldier, and shall endeavor now to show the armor he does wear. St. Paul says: "The night is far spent and the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light." The armor of light is the one worn by a Christian soldier. St. Paul also says: "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." God himself is the armor worn by a Christian soldier, and only He is the one efficient and most powerful armor which can be worn by any soldier. We join Martin Luther in singing, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, a Sure Defense and Weapon." God is the mighty fortress, He is the armor worn by a Christian soldier, and Luther has taught us how to obtain and how to use that armor efficiently.

The wars in which the Christian soldier takes part are not wars of nation against nation, but the wars of the Church against the kingdom of the devil, and each individual in the army of God must put on his armor, and fight against the prince of darkness, that the Church may be able to subdue him. We then as Christian soldiers must put on the armor which consists of, first the Shield of Faith. Faith is not a shield and defense of the soul in so far as it is a quality or a virtue in us, but in so far as it apprehends God and His promises and acquiesces in them. We also must don the Helmet of Salvation, for it is the present application of Christ's redemption to ourselves, with which we are to cover our heads against all perils.

Our first object is to defend the grace which God has effered us through the Holy Spirit, to defend the liberty which has been given to us by Jesus Christ.

Our second object is to offend the kingdom of darkness. As Luther Leaguers of America we ought to be proud of the armor, which we have the privilege to wear. A coward is that member of this great League who does not live up to our Luther League Rally Hymn:

"Oh Christians! leagued together,
To battle for the right,
Arise, and don your armor,
Put the foe to flight;
We've given our allegiance
To serve without surcease,
The mighty Lord of Armies
And gentle Prince of Peace!"

The President, Mr. Brissman, read his report:

The past year has not been marked by any epoch-making events in the state work. However, the regular work of the League has been quietly carried on, and its culmination is this present convention, which we hope to make one to be remembered in the history of the League.

There has been but one regular meeting of the Executive Committee and officers. This meeting was very well attended. It was held in Chicago. The work has been carried on by correspondence.

The Lord has been with us during this year and poured His blessings upon us, and we pray that He may continue to be with us and lead us and guide us and bless us.

The Treasurer reported:

Balance on hand.....	$51.30
A note for.....	96.50
Dues outstanding	210.50
Bills payable	77.20

The Executive Secretary, Miss Elizabeth Soderholm, reported as follows:

This department was unable to begin work until May. At that time statistical cards were mailed to the various Leagues, and thirty-seven replies were received. July 25 more were mailed, some to Leagues already addressed, and some to Leagues just brought to the secretary's attention. At this time some fifty questionnaires on practical work were mailed, fifteen replies being received.

A book was purchased, the records of 1907 and 1913, the only ones received by the present secretary, were entered, as well as the record of 1916. There is a double page for each League, and plenty of space for records for the next five years.

Thirteen Leagues outside of Chicago have reported with a membership of 647. There are 34 Leagues in Chicago, with a membership of 1,654, making the total Illinois membership 47 Leagues, 2,301 members.

It is noticeable that the representation is mainly northern, and I would suggest that next year special effort be made to interest the southern portion of the state, even if it be necessary to have a "Northern Division" and a "Southern Division" of the Luther League of Illinois meeting separately for conventions.

I wish publicly to express my gratitude to Mr. C. T. A. Anderson for much valuable advice and assistance. I would also thank those local secretaries who responded promptly to my calls for data.

Mr. J. Alex. Nelson, chairman of the Extension Committee, reported that two new Leagues had been organized and become affiliated with the Chicago district, namely Gethsemane League, of Cicero, Ill., and St. Luke's English, of Chicago. An application for membership in the State League was also received from the English Lutheran Church of Aurora, and they were enrolled as members of the State League.

Mr. C. T. A. Anderson, the President of the Luther League of America, was invited to deliver a short address at the rally on Sunday afternoon.

The following committees were appointed by the President:

Resolutions—Mr. C. C. Eisemann, Miss Sadie Hendrickson, Miss Hulda Miller, all of Chicago.

Auditing—Rev. Fred Lindke, Aurora; Mr. Ralph Peterson, Morris; Mr. Blanchard Thorson, Morris.

Nominating—Mr. C. T. A. Anderson, Chicago; Miss Celia Oakland, Rowe; Mr. Torwald Aarestad, Morris.

Third Session.

The devotional exercises at this session were led by Mr. J. Alex. Nelson.

Miss Ruth Johnson, of Chicago, one of the best known singers in the Chicago League, sang a solo.

The first paper of the afternoon was read by Mr. Jonas Foss, of Chicago, on "The Foes of the Christian Church."

This paper has been written with the end in view of being merely suggestive.

A Christian soldier is one in whom the Spirit of God has planted the germ of spiritual life as opposed to spiritual death. It is not an act of man. No man can impart spiritual life to his own soul. Man can ask for it as a blind man asks for sight. All spiritual life is based upon the regeneration wrought by God's spirit.

One foe that the Christian soldier meets is *doubt*. There is hardly any one who never doubts his faith. The Bible never praises doubt. It regards doubt as a disease which is to be avoided.

Faith is an evidence of health—of moral soundness and balance. Faith is vigor, power.

Another enemy may be classified under the group

of false religions. A case in point is the so-called Christian Scientist Church.

Our greatest foe as Christian soldiers is our own self. Socrates struck the nail on the head when he said, "Know thyself." Examine ourselves and we find ourselves a bundle of habits, good and bad. May we use introspection on ourselves. By the help of the commander in chief of the Christian soldiers, we will march forward to triumphant victory.

"The Reward of the Christian Soldier" was the subject of an address by Rev. Anda, who said in part:

I am to call attention to Rewards. When we think of the great conflict going on across the water—when we think of the thousands and millions of men, human targets for bullets, when we think of the fact that there are not only hundreds and thousands, but millions of men who will become crippled for life, who will be unable to do a day's work after the war is over, we ask ourselves, "What is their reward?" Doubtless they will have the gratitude of their country, their fellow citizens, but what is that in comparison with the tremendous loss, with the sacrifice they have had to make? Now against this conflict between man and man is the conflict between sin and righteousness, the conflict in which man is engaged as a Christian soldier.

There is a reward for the Christian soldier in time, there is a reward in eternity A Christian soldier has his reward in the very consciousness that he is fighting a good cause.

I say the very consciousness that he is engaged in the warfare which has been ordered by God himself, and which is necessary for the maintenance of that which is enjoyable and good and worth having is in itself a reward. There is satisfaction in it, there is promise of future joy in it.

In the second place he has his reward because of the favor he has won in the sight of God. Then again he is engaged in a winning fight, his life is the winning life. It has the power within it to overcome every obstacle, to make progress along the highway of God's kingdom.

There is also the eternal life. Paul says: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." The day will come when all that is evil shall be swept away; the day will come when nature shall present itself in all its beauty, when man and woman shall wake in perfect consciousness of oneness with God. It's the crown of righteousness that shall be ours. Sin shall be done away—it's the reward of the Christian soldier, in the world to come.

The Auditing Committee found the books correct.

The following set of resolutions was offered by the Resolutions Committee:

1st. We endorse the literature of the Luther League and recommend its use, especially the Topics. We also urge all young people to become subscribers to the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, and we recommend that each local society have in its library the Luther League Reading Course, and that the chairman of the Devotional Committee of each local League request the members of their League to make use of these books.

2d. We recommend the suggestion made by the Executive Secretary that special effort be made to organize the southern portion of the state, and that this be done even if it is necessary to have two divisions of the Luther League of Illinois.

3d. We recommend the suggestion of the Treasurer that the letter and note of Mr. Hanson be left in the hands of the Executive Committee.

4th. We recommend the suggestion of the chairman of the Extension Committee that the Extension Committee be composed of the chairman of each District Extension Committee.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—J. Alex. Nelson, Chicago.

Recording Secretary—Miss Hulda Miller, Chicago.

Executive Secretary—Miss Elizabeth Soderholm, Harrisburg, Ill.

Treasurer—Mr. C. C. Eisemann, Chicago.

Executive Committee—Rev. Ira O. Northstein, Rock Island.

Mr. Brissman thanked the League for the support given him last year and introduced Mr. Nelson as our new president.

A telegram of greeting from Mr. Harry Hodges, General Secretary of the Luther League of America, was read.

After the close of the session, lunch was served in the church parlors, and a fine "impromptu" program was gotten up by Mr. C. T. A. Anderson.

Fourth Session.

The musical numbers consisted of an anthem by Bethel Choir, and a solo by Miss Lilly Anderson, of Chicago.

Rev. Lloyd W. Walter, of Evanston, made the address of the evening, on "Providence in American History," saying in part:

Somehow by the Providence of God, in the French and Indian War, this country, instead of being French Catholic, remained Protestant, and also at this same period and in this same time there was being trained and schooled, although he never knew it, and the people never knew it, a man who would some day be cherished as the best and greatest among them. He was being made ready to lead the people and the people would be ready to follow him. Was George Washington not a gift of Providence?

The Revolution had its inception in the Massachusetts colony. The people in that section of the seaboard were about the most aggravated of any against England. The southern colonies were not so affected by being taxed because they did not import quite as much tea as Boston. The northern colonies had come to the crossroads with England, and when England meets England I guess he knows the kind of temper he's meeting.

It looked as if the Revolution would not succeed; it looked as if the colonies could not unite and stand together against England, and so John Adams, in the Continental Congress of 1775, realizing that the south must stand with their brethren, made a memorable speech before the Continental Congress. He put in the name of George Washington as commander in chief to lead the armies. He knew that if he could get the man from the South in whom the people had learned to believe, that this might be the binding link that would make them one. This was perhaps the crisis of our history.

About a year ago a crowd of people were being taken over that memorable battle ground which was bathed with the precious blood of Americans meeting Americans. The saddest thing that can occur is when a household is divided against itself, when brother cannot agree with brother or sister with sister. Just fifty years to the day of that great battle of Gettysburg, July 3rd, 1913, the Union men in blue stationed themselves at the same place where they stood fifty years before. What memories they must have had! Over yonder on Seminary Ridge

stood the men in grey. Behold them, they come across those same ramparts, but instead of coming with bayonets, they now come and meet hand to hand, the hand clasp of the time forgiven. With such forgiveness, my friends, I am confident that God is in us, and that His Providence is working through our country's history.

Mrs. Minnie L. Boedecker read a report of the Convention of The Luther League of America at Toledo, Ohio.

The report of the Credentials Committee showed 80 delegates and 74 visitors present.

Fifth Session

The Grand Rally was held on Sunday afternoon October 1st, at St. Paul's Church. The spacious auditorium of this beautiful church was well filled and there was hardly standing room left.

The musical numbers were furnished by St. Paul's Church Choir, Miss Georgina Huebner of Chicago, and Miss Violet Gahlbeck of Elgin, Ill.

The address was made by Prof. J. Victor Bergquist, of Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill. His subject was "Music the Emotional Weapon."

In the Garden of Eden were born the emotions of indifference, selfishness, envy, jealousy, hate, the weapons of the Devil in his struggle to win souls for hell; but God in his infinite mercy has given us a stronger weapon to combat these evils, this weapon is love. Has this divine emotion any means of expression? We may say that it will express itself in our actions, in our words, but it has a very direct expression through the means of the language of music.

Christ sanctified music, the night he instituted the Lord's Supper. "And when they had sung an hymn, they went out unto the Mount of Olives." What a glorious thought, Christ the God and man, together with his disciples, pours out his heart in song, and with his act has for all time sanctified music. Let us accept God's command and Christ's precept, and sing unto our Maker and Redeemer. On earth we have no greater gift than music, an echo from the throne of God. "Tones are words from the language of the saints." Music is the language of heaven, there is no music in hell, "the devil hates music." Why? Music is the language of love, the devil is incapable of love. It is a significant fact in God's creation, that the birds of prey do not sing. The devil and the powers of evil who prey upon the souls of men have no music. True it is that they use music, but they use the word of God as well, to lure men from righteousness.

The Trinity of elements that give music its power are: rhythm, the physical life, melody, the soul life and harmony the intellectual life. Rhythm is measured motion, and man responds to it reflexly and almost inevitably, it is mechanical, not intellectual, but has its influence upon man's consciousness.

Melody is of the heart a part, "peculiarly and characteristically a product of the mind's own inner activity." If we are to use melodies in our warfare for Christ let us accept only such melodies that have sprung from a heart full of love for Christ. How shall we know them? We may know the men who have written them, we may know under what conditions they were written, and we may feel their contents, but our feelings may lead us astray.

Harmony is the intellectual life. God's grace is free to all, and we accept the same by faith, but God has given to his language of the soul not only its rhythm, and melody, but its harmony as well, and he expects us to grow into a deeper understanding and appreciation of the same and thereby enrich our emotional lives and make our hearts more susceptible to a greater spiritual life.

The power of music on the hearts of men is attested to in all walks of life. When Rev. E. P. Scott reached the mountain home of the savage people in India to whom he went as missionary, they seized him and pointed their spears at his heart. He drew out the violin which he always carried with him, closed his eyes, and began to play and sing in their native tongue "All hail the power of Jesus' name," expecting every minute to be his last. When he reached the third stanza, and nothing had happened, he opened his eyes, and to his amazement, found that they had dropped their spears, and big tears were in their eyes. He afterwards worked among them until his death.

Music is a power and a true weapon in our struggle for spiritual peace. It not only expresses our innermost feelings, but has the power to impress God's truths upon the hearts of men. How much richer to our emotions become the great truths of Grace when in true communion of spirits we sing them into our lives. In the communion of spirits lies the great psychological reason for the power of congregational singing. We feel with our neighbors the great emotional swell and our spiritual life is enriched, the truths of God sink deep into our hearts.

"When the heart is full of religious fervor, the lips will overflow with religious song." Some excuse themselves by saying, "I am not musical, I can't sing." In answer we might say, because you have no education and can not use the best language you must not pray. Nay, God hears the humblest prayer, and those who only mumble the words, but sing in spirit, are adding their quota to the emotional life of the service!

J. ALEX NELSON,
President Luther League of Illinois

Music is the handwand of religion, the key to our hearts, the outlet of our religious feelings, the well springs of our devotional life, clothed in words it expresses for us the prayerful desires of our hearts, and lifts our souls in praise to God.

Mr. C. T. A. Anderson gave a short talk, after which Mr. Nelson made the closing remarks.

The twenty second annual Convention was a success. We hope that it will inspire and instill in all those who were present a feeling of greater activity for the coming year—1917, the big year in our history. Let us therefore, do big things, so that the year of 1917 will be not only an epoch in the history of the Lutheran Church, but in the history of the Luther League of Illinois.

Luther League of New Jersey

Twenty-first Annual Convention at Atlantic City, October 12, 1916

BY W. P. STEINHAEUSER, Ph. D., Litt. D.

THE Luther League of New Jersey held its twenty-first annual convention on October 12th, in St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea, Atlantic City, New Jersey, Rev. Frederick C. Krapf, pastor.

The keynote of the convention was genuine Lutheran hospitality. The sessions were full of interest throughout and were well attended.

Owing to the illness of the president, Rev. C. T. McDaniel, of Hoboken, Mr. Harry Huey, of Elizabeth, third vice-president of the League, presided and called the convention to order. Mr. LeRoy Frankenfield, president of the local League, delivered the address of welcome. Mr. H. H. Schnepel, chairman of the Executive Committee, responded in behalf of the Luther League of New Jersey.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, ATLANTIC CITY,
Where New Jersey Convention was held.

"Efficiency." Plans were laid to place the League upon a more efficient basis. The officers elected are all efficient workers, and the League promises more effective service for our beloved Zion than ever before. Rev. Krapf and his good people were true to their reputation and welcomed us with

The report of the president, Rev. McDaniel, was then read by the recording secretary, Mrs. W. P. Steinhaeuser.

I have endeavored to the best of my ability to attend to the duties of my office and in every way possible to advance the interests of the State League. I have endeavored during the year to work in close co-operation with the State Executive Committee, I have attended all the meetings of the Executive Committee and have labored in entire harmony with them to accomplish the best results, limited as we have been in our finances, and because of the many unexpected difficulties which have beset us during the year.

In my last report as president I offered a series of suggestions which were acted upon at the last convention. These I have sought to actualize and to make effective. It may be we have not made very much progress—still, I am sure, we are moving in the right direction, and in time, by patience and fidelity, we will see the fruitage of our labors. The end I have always kept in view has been the supreme one—"Spiritual Efficiency."

The chair appointed the following committees:

Nominating Committee—H. H. Schnepel, Carl Thorbecke, Miss Anna Asmund.

Resolution Committee — W. P. Steinhaeuser, LeRoy Frankenfield, Miss Carolena Nolde, Miss Louisa Schindler, T. R. Adams.

Auditing Committee—Miss Grace Fisher, Henry W. Fiedler, Rev. H. L. Y. Seyler.

The Executive Committee reported through its chairman, Mr. H. H. Schnepel, as follows:

The Committee during the past year held four meetings at the home of President, Rev. C. T. McDaniel. The State League consists of two District Leagues, and thirteen local societies.

Two leagues expect to apply for admission to the State League, South Camden and Hainesport. The small progress the State League has made during the year is to be regretted. Some of the causes may be attributed to lack of co-operation and efficiency. Mr. Louis Geils who served so faithfully as President of the Northern District, served until our country called him to the Mexican border. During his absence Mr. Fred G. Search and Mr. Fred P. Laux have had the work in charge. The Southern District has been ably handled by our First Vice-President, Mr. T. Robert Adams.

Upon the action of the Committee in future all matters of delinquency in dues should be referred to the Executive Committee for special action. The Committee will propose a constitution for your adoption, copies of which have been mailed to all the societies.

The past year the Lord has seen fit to take from us one of our most faithful members, Rev. P. F. Becker, Pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, of West New York. Resolutions were passed and forwarded to the bereaved family and to St. John's League.

The arrangements for this convention were in charge of the Executive Committee.

The report of the statistical secretary, Miss Margaret Van Dusen, followed, and showed 13 societies and 291 members in the State League. The offerings for benevolence were $255.36, and for local objects $484.52, making a total of $859.52.

Miss Carolena Nolde, the treasurer, reported as follows:

Receipts	$89.20	
Expenses	49.00	
Balance		$40.20
Oct. 11, Luther League of Perth Amboy, Dues		5.28
Total amount in Treasury		$45.48

Unpaid Bills:

½ Dues to Luther League of America, amounting to $12.

(Instructed not to pay this bill until after convention, by Executive CCommittee.)

Dues received from 275 members.

Dues received from 10 Luther Leagues.

Mr. Harry Hodges, of Philadelphia, Pa., general secretary of the Luther League of America, delivered a stirring address relative to the work of the National Convention held in Toledo, Ohio, during August, and also gave some excellent suggestions as to strengthening the work in New Jersey.

There was a much larger attendance at the afternoon session than during the morning session. An entirely new constitution was adopted based on the model State constitution recommended by the Luther League of America. By the adoption of this new constitution it is hoped to place the Luther League of New Jersey upon a stable working basis.

An inspiring address was then delivered by Rev. A. T. Michler, of Philadelphia, Pa., on Junior and Intermediate League work. He said in part:

We must take care of our boys and girls of today, if we want the men and women of tomorrow, we should have literature published which could be disseminated to those who would like to begin work but who do not know how to begin or what to do. We should encourage the formation of Boys' and Girls' Luther Leagues. This I consider the proper basis on which to carry on Junior Work, as we have conceived it in the past.

Barring an interesting and enthusiastic teacher who grips the boy, how many of our boys are regular in Sunday School when they become fifteen years of age? About this time they drop out in large numbers unless the home insists upon their going and then many pretend to go but do not. Why is it that the boy of this age is not found in the Junior Luther League? Because there are girls there. These are facts and not theories. As I visit around and look over the congregations and look for the boy of that particular age I find him conspicuous by his absence. There is a reason in my mind and it is this: At this age he is growing rapidly physically and he is full of pent-up energy. He wants activity. Then his mind is growing and developing. He is looking for the why and wherefore of things. He will be in that state of mind when the world is opening up and when he is beginning to feel a new consciousness he has never felt before. His spiritua life is developing. Now, then, that boy can be reached religiously if we know how to do it. That boy is self-conscious; that boy is full of energy and if some of these things are not met wisely from this point of view he is going to get them elsewhere. In our modern system of education we are providing for special groups within the schools and he receives ideas and impressions from that particular center.

Therefore our Boys' League and our Girls' League within our Church are necessary. The summer camp is one of the finest things, properly conducted, for our boys, and the gymnasium or a room where activities can be carried on during the winter is also a necessity. Let us save the boys and girls of our Churches.

The Auditing Committee reported that they had audited the treasurer's accounts and had found them correct.

The report of the Committee on Resolutions was presented by the chairman, Dr. W. P. Steinhaeuser, as follows:

That the members of the Luther League learn more of the life of Luther and the history of the Lutheran Church according to the Quadri-Centennial Reading Course recommended by the Luther League of America.

That an effort be made to develop leaders in our local Leagues.

That the pastors and laymen of our Church in New Jersey be called upon to take greater interest in local Leagues and their work.

That a committee be appointed in each League that will have in charge the placing of Lutheran literature in public buildings, hospitals, libraries, Y. M. C. A's., and Y. W. C. A's.

That each Luther League take up a systematic plan to canvass their local League to take part in some church work.

That a Press Committee be appointed in each local League to send reports to the Luther League Review.

That statistical reports from each local and District League be rendered twice a year to the statistical secretary.

That the presidents of the District Leagues report to the president of the State Luther League in writing twice a year.

That we encourage Junior and Intermediate Leagues, and that a committee be appointed to have this work in charge.

That the members of our Leagues be encouraged to read the books of the Reading Courses.

That we recommend the printing of a Directory of Local Leagues, copies to be mailed to all the societies in the state.

That we give our hearty approval to the resolution adopted at the last convention of the Luther League of America in Toledo, Ohio, relative to the raising of a fund to be known as a Jubilee Fund to be raised before January 1, 1917, for the advancement of the work of the League, and that we call upon all local Leagues to give their hearty co-operation to this movement.

DR. W. P. STEINHAEUSER,
President of the New Jersey League

A special resolution presented by the Executive Committee on the death of Rev. P. F. J. Becker, pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, of West New York, was also adopted.

Dr. William C. Stoever, of Philadelphia, Pa., ex-president of the Luther League of America, was present and delivered a splendid address on the work of the Luther League.

The Nominating Committee reported and the following officers were elected: President, Dr. W. P. Steinhaeuser, Asbury Park; first vice-president, Mr. H. W. Fiedler, Atlantic City; second vice-president, Miss Estella Mueller, Elizabeth; recording secretary, Miss Louisa Schindler, Camden; corresponding secretary, Miss Elizabeth Van Dusen, Perth Amboy; statistical secretary, Miss Anna Asmund, East Orange; treasurer, Miss Carolena Nolde, Riverside.

The following Executive Committee was elected: Mr. L. W. Geils, East Orange; Rev. H. L. Y. Seyler, Elizabeth; Mr. J. R. Adams, Camden; Mr. C. E. Thorbecke, Riverside, and Mr. H. Wacker.

An invitation was extended and accepted for the State Luther League to meet in 1917 in the new Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Asbury Park.

The Luther League of Christ Lutheran Church, South Camden, was received into membership.

Miss Emma E. Fichthorn, of St. Andrew's Luther League, Atlantic City, read an interesting paper on "How Can We Develop Spirituality in Our Local League." This subject was handled in a very able manner, and contained a great many suggestions that should be put into active practice during the coming year.

The conventioners then repaired to the social room of the church where an excellent supper was served by the Ladies Aid of St. Andrews. This afforded delegates and visitors an opportunity to get better acquainted.

A grand rally meeting was held during the evening.

Two masterly addresses were delivered, one on "Efficiency," by Rev. J. Fry, D. D., LL. D., L. H. D., of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Mount Airy, Philadelphia, Pa., and the other on "The Dawn of the Reformation," by Rev. A. Pohlman, M. D., D. D., pastor of Temple Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

In closing the audience arose and sang most heartily the Luther League Rally Hymn. Thus closed one of the most interesting conventions ever held in the history of the Luther League of New Jersey.

Luther League of Michigan

First Annual Convention at Detroit, September 22, 23 and 24, 1916

BY RAY W. SENUSKY.

JUST before the convention of the Luther League of America at Toledo, a letter was sent out looking toward the organization of a Michigan State Luther League. The convention was called to meet in St. Paul's English Lutheran Church, Detroit, Mich. September 22, 23, 24. The convention has been held and the Michigan State League has been organized. The response to the call, though small, was large enough to justify a State organization.

On Friday evening, September 22, delegates and visitors met at St. Paul's Church, Detroit, Mich., Rev. Henry G. Miley, pastor. The Vesper Service was conducted by Rev. F. L. Lineberger, who also delivered the keynote address. He spoke on the need of consecration and earnestness in church work, and showed the Luther Leaguers assembled the need of seriousness of purpose in their work. The address of welcome was delivered by Ray W. Senusky, president of the Detroit District Luther League, and was responded to by Rev. George Beiswanger, of Constantine.

At the opening of the Saturday morning business session, Rev. Garman acted as temporary chairman, and Rev. Wayne O. Kantner acted as temporary secretary. A report of the State Extension Committee outlining the work that had been done toward effecting a State League, was read. The committee presented a resolution calling for the organization of a State League, which was unanimously adopted.

After the morning business session a very profitable half hour was spent in a round table discussion on League work under the leadership of Rev. F. L. Lineberger.

At the business session, Saturday afternoon, September 23, Rev. Wayne O. Kantner, speaking for the Battle Creek delegation, extended a cordial invitation to the State League to hold their next convention in Battle Creek. This invitation was unanimously accepted. The time of meeting was left to the Executive Committee. The report of the Constitution Committee recommended the adoption of the constitution given in the Luther League handbook, with modifications to suit local needs. The following were elected.

Rev. F. L. Lineberger, President, Detroit.

Mr. A. L. Burke, Vice-President, Kalamazoo.

Miss Venice Barker, Recording Secretary, Battle Creek.

Ray W. Senusky, Corresponding Secretary, Detroit.

Mr. Ernest Ihrig, Treasurer, Detroit.

Miss Alma Albrecht, Statistical Secretary, Detroit.

On Saturday evening the Convention held a banquet at the Y. M. C. A.

Mr. Ray W. Senusky spoke on Luther League Work; H. R. Wagner on Coöperation in Luther League Work; Rev. W. C. Hanning on Success in Luther League Work; Rev. H. G. Miley on Action in Luther League Work, and Rev. F. L. Lineberger on Our Michigan State Luther League Work.

REV. F. L. LINEBERGER,
President of the Michigan League

Rev. A. A. Homrighaus, D.D., acted as toastmaster.

On Sunday afternoon the Luther Leaguers held a rally at St. Paul's Church. The Rev. F. L. Lineberger conducted the Vesper Services, and Mr. O. C. Rohde of Toledo, Ohio, Vice-president of the Luther League of America, delivered an address on the subject of "Luther League Enthusiasm." St. Paul's vested choir rendered the music.

This meeting ended a very successful Convention. The next Convention will be held in Battle Creek about February, 1917.

Shall the Church Minister to Man's Social Nature?

BY REV. OLAF LYNESS.

WE are agreed that the primary, essential, and ultimate purpose of the Church is to minister to man's spiritual nature: by the means of grace to regenerate him, and then to keep him in the fellowship of Christ.

However, the Church knows and recognizes that man has also a body, a mind, and a social nature. These God has given him. The Church ministers to the body in the care of its members in the home; and in the case of orphans and the aged in special homes provided for them. I am aware that the salvation of the soul is the motive: but, mark you, the Church ministers thus to the body.

The Church in so far as it is Evangelical insists mightily that the home, the State, or the Church itself, shall minister to man's mind in the school. If you were to ask why the Church ministers to man's mind, the average Church member would probably answer: "Because it is good for man."

Knowing that the Church ministers to man's body, to his mind, and to his spiritual nature, the question remains, "Shall the Church minister to man's social nature?" By way of preface, let us notice that the devil and the world are very zealous to minister to man's social nature by providing saloons, dance halls, impure theatres, demoralizing picture shows, and other means of amusement and entertainment. Let us also note that where the Church is true to its Master it is diligent in condemning all impure and destructive amusements: as also the abuse of time and waste of money on an excess of amusements that in themselves are quite harmless. Further, it is a well known fact that a very large percentage of Church members are very conscientious in providing themselves with the entertainment that their social natures demand. The form and expression vary: automobiles, boats, pipes, newspapers, afternoon teas (or coffees), parties, *et cetera, ad infinitum,* and in some cases *ad nauseam.*

Now the question remains, Should the local Church, or the Luther League within the Church, feel it a *duty,* and make it a part of its program to provide clean, interesting amusement for those of its members who especially need it? And for others in the territory of the Church who are deprived of the social life of the home? A girl comes into your village to clerk or act as cashier in a store; another young woman comes to work in the bank; a young man comes into town and goes to work on the dray line. Has the Church a social duty toward them?

You may answer that there is no direct command to that effect in Scripture. True, but if you will read in the fourth chapter of Ephesians what the Church is to do, you will find that it is to work "for the perfecting of the Saints" . . . "till we all attain" . . . "unto a full grown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ," "that we may grow up in all things into him who is the head, even Christ;" that every joint shall supply something and that the body (the Church), shall build itself up in love.

No one is a full grown man whose social nature is neglected, left undeveloped, or wrongly and sinfully nourished and ministered unto by the world and the devil. But where the Church ministers to body, mind, spirit *and* the social nature of man, he will most nearly approach "the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

Then, too, there is something that theologians and near-theologians call "the analogy of faith." Get your pastor to explain that expression to you in this connection.

Finally, we have the example of Jesus who Himself went and took His disciples with Him to dinners, weddings, and banquets.

So my answer to the question that heads this article is decidedly affirmative. Because of its failure to provide clean and attractive entertainment especially for *young* people, the Church has lost hundreds of thousands of members. So let us unselfishly, sympathetically do our duty, embrace the opportunity, and do what we can for the stranger within our gates, and for the people of the Church in a social way.

BOOK REVIEW

FESTIVAL SEASONS OF THE CHURCH YEAR. A Picture Book for Christian Children. Fifth edition. Published by Pilger Publishing House, Reading, Pa. The price is, bound in illuminated cover, per copy, $0.15; per dozen, $1.50; per hundred, $10.00.

This little book is printed on heavy paper, and illustrated with twenty-three engravings, is designed to explain the meaning of the Festivals of the Christian Church, and thus to prepare the children for the hearty celebration of the same.

The General Secretary's Letter

DEAR FRIENDS:

This is the first of a series of letters which the General Secretary expects to address to you from month to month acquainting you with the progress of the work as seen through and conducted by his office. At this writing "his office" is a figurative expression, but in the near future it will doubtless be a reality, for the Executive Committee has referred the matter to its Advisory Committee with power to act. This action is necessarily delayed because the Treasurer reports a balance of $8 in the treasury. We are counting on the Jubilee Fund, for surely a project which was launched with such enthusiasm cannot fail of being a success.

Dear Reader, has your League started to collect its share of this fund? If not, will you not bring the matter to its attention at the next meeting?

October 9 was a great day for the Luther League of America. On that day three of its very important committees met in Pittsburgh, Pa., to plan the work for the biennium, viz., Executive, Finance, and Junior and Intermediary Committees. The enthusiasm at the closing hours of the Toledo convention was felt in them all and manifested itself in their plans. The Executive Committee executed the work which had been referred to it by the Toledo convention and formulated large plans for the advancement of the work. The Finance Committee formulated a plan for the collection of the Jubilee Fund. The Junior and Intermediate Committee adopted Topics for each of its departments, and determined to raise from among the Junior and Intermediate Leagues a fund sufficient to publish the new Hand Book and present it to the Luther League of America as a Jubilee offering.

The Luther League of Illinois has just held a very successful convention, September 29, 30, and October 1, in Chicago, the residence of our new president. The convention theme was "Christian Warfare." Mr. J. Alex. Nelson, who served for a number of years on the Executive Committee of the Luther League of America, was elected president.

The Districts of Baltimore and Washington held business meetings simultaneously on September 26. A Missionary Pageant was the feature of the first named district. The latter received the Christian Endeavor Societies of the Reformation and Luther Memorial Churches into membership.

The Luther League of New Jersey met in convention on October 12 in Atlantic City, with "Efficiency" for its theme, based on Phil. 3:16. A new constitution, patterned after the model in the Hand Book, was adopted. Mr. W. P. Steinhaeuser, A. M., Ph. D., Lit.D., of Asbury Park, was elected president.

The presidents of the Local Leagues of the Philadelphia District met at supper on October 17 to plan for the winter's work. Addresses were delivered by Mr. William Mearig, of New Holland, chairman of the Extension Committee of the Luther League of Pennsylvania, and the General Secretary. Mr. J. Milton Dock, the President of the Philadelphia District, presided.

The Luther League of New York has set for its goal for the Quadri-Centennial Year a membership of 10,000 and a Junior League in every church. While in Pittsburgh it was my privilege to attend a Junior League meeting in Grace Church under the supervision of Mr. Chas. Fuhr, an active member of our Junior and Intermediate Committee, and the President of the Luther League of Pennsylvania. About two hundred children were in attendance, and the meeting was conducted entirely by Juniors. The manner of handling the topic and the parliamentary procedure would have been a credit to any adult organization. Since attending that meeting I know why Pittsburgh is the strongest district in the Luther League. They begin with the Juniors.

The Bulletin of the Pennsylvania League and the Chicago Luther Leaguers are always welcome visitors to this desk. If any other organization publishes a paper, please place my name on your mailing list.

When this letter reaches you, we will have entered into the great Jubilee celebration. May we as Luther Leaguers take our just part in that celebration, not alone by recounting history, but in building for the future. History is great, but destiny is greater; and the destiny of the Lutheran Church is in the hands of her young people, the Luther League.

Yours for a greater Luther League,

HARRY HODGES,
General Secretary.

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Luther League Review

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LUTHER LEAGUE
ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE

Luther League of America

IN THE INTERESTS OF

The Lutheran Church and Her Young People

REV. LUTHER M. KUHNS, EDITOR,
Omaha, Nebraska.
E. F. EILERT, PUBLISHER,
New York,
—with—
W. C. STOEVER, Lit.D., Philadelphia, Pa.
I. S. RUNYON, New York, N. Y.
J. M. REYNOLDS, Valatie, N. Y.
A. T. MICHLER, Philadelphia, Pa.
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Editorial

Ah! dearest Jesus, Holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefil'd,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.
My heart for very joy doth leap,
My lips no more can silence keep,
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle song:
"Glory to God in highest Heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given."
While angels sing, with pious mirth,
A glad New Year to all the earth.

—*Martin Luther.*

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

Worship is the Christmas offering we bring the wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. The night of ignorance and superstition shines with the holy brightness of the true light. From the bondage under the yoke of sin, the birth of God's only begotten Son has set us free. The light He brought to earth has given us the joys of Heaven. Who can fathom the mysteries of Christmas? Because of the gift of God's beloved Son, the new joy at Christmas gives us the experience of God's good pleasure. We sing a new song because of the marvelous things God has done in the gift of the Saviour. As God establishes His throne and makes sure his testimonies in the birth of Christ, we feel girded with strength. Grace and truth meet together, and His followers, ready for the celebration of the visitation of the Son of the Highest, should abound in good works. Thus they may show their faith in the Christ-child. Christmas appeals to Christian faith, obedience and love. This is saying what has been said ever since Christ was born; but for all the passing centuries Christmas never has grown old, but is always new. A charm is about it that begins with the cradle and only ends with the grave. Like the sunrise and the sunset, either beckoning the traveller on his way or bidding him tarry when the day's work is done, Christmas leads us on while life endures. It has the promises of renewed opportunities to worship God in the beauty of holiness and bids us serve Him until the night cometh when no man can work.

THE LUTHERAN ON THE LUTHER LEAGUE.

In its issue of August 31, 1916, *The Lutheran* published a noteworthy editorial on The Luther League. This editorial contains three distinct and significant features—first, reference to some facts which seem to indicate that "in the older eastern Lutheran bodies it (the League) seems to have lost some of its vigor"; second, that "it has done more to inspire an intelligent ecumenical Lutheran spirit than anything else we know of"; and third, that "the great jubilee year that lies before us gives the Luther League the opportunity of its lifetime to create and foster a new interest in the history, the personalities, the teachings, and the principles which have given the Lutheran Church a right to its distinctive existence."

This threefold expression brings us a threefold mental and spiritual experience.

It makes us glad, cautious, and hopeful—glad that the leaders of our Church have recognized and are willing openly to acknowledge the League's claims to conspicuous usefulness which has resulted in great and permanent benefit to the visible Kingdom of God, cautious not to make mistakes that might mar a good record; hopeful that at no distant day all the leaders of our beloved Church will unite in commending, supporting and helping to guide this organization of young people.

There is some ground for *The Lutheran's* fear that the Luther League has lost a measure of its popularity in some circles. There are localities or communities where it is not as strong in numbers as once it was. But this fact can not rightfully be interpreted as indicating any inherent weakness in the League principles or program. These are as strong and capable of producing good effects as they ever were. That fact is proven by the good results of League activity in practically every Church and in every district League where the League is given a fair chance to show its strength. A waning of interest in the League and a reduction of its beneficent results in any Church or community can not be charged to any weakness of the League idea. Such loss of interest and diminution of results, where they are recorded, must be due to some fault in the application of the idea. Either the methods employed are faulty, or the people who are working the idea are failing in some way to make it effective.

The best idea in the world becomes a productive force only when it is rightly applied. The Luther League idea is no exception to this rule. Its success in every instance depends upon the hearty and intelligent application of it to the local condition. And it is not difficult to locate responsibility where pastor and church council unite in such hearty and intelligent support of it, the League is practically sure to succeed in helping to develop the young people into earnest and thoughtful Christians. In this, as in every other feature of church work the pastor is the leader and guide.

But there are pastors who still openly or tacitly question the League's right to recognition as a church auxiliary. Men who are in this frame of mind are in duty bound to consider very carefully the history and achievement of the League. When they do, they will see that it has shown much more of strength than of weakness, vastly more of virtue than of fault, infinitely greater power for good than of liability to commit error. These facts throw upon every pastor a measure of responsibility—in fact a solemn duty—to consider with a perfectly open mind the claims of the League idea upon him. They challenge every layman to consider whether the League has not fully earned his unqualified support.

It should be remembered that the loss to the League referred to by *The Lutheran* is not universal, or even general. In fact, the condition of the Luther League, generally, throughout the field, is much better and stronger than ever before in its history. Any doubts on this point are quickly and fully dispelled by reading the General Secretary's report at the Toledo Convention, published in the September issue of THE REVIEW. The facts there reported are very gratifying.

For *The Lutheran's* generous appreciation of the League's work and its endorsement of its policy, we are profoundly grateful. Every Leaguer is glad this word of commendation could be written by so high an authority as *The Lutheran.* We hope it may have some weight with men who still are indifferent to the League, or are for one reason or another withholding their support.

To *The Lutheran's* suggestion that an important part in the Quadricentennial celebration might well be taken by the League, the League has already heartily responded. For many months past the ground was being canvassed to determine what contribution the League could make to this celebration. It was finally concluded that local and district Leagues could accomplish most by co-operating in the local church and community plans for the celebration, but that the Luther League of America could best serve the Church in its educational sphere. Accordingly, at the Toledo Convention the Literature Committee was authorized to prepare and circulate a course of reading selected with special reference to the Quadricentennial

celebration. Such a course has been arranged and is announced in this issue of THE REVIEW. This course ought to accomplish the results mentioned in *The Lutheran's* editorial as desirable. We hope this plan will commend itself to every man and woman in the Church and that great good may result from its adoption.

THE REFORMATION READING COURSE

Attention of officers, committees and Luther League workers is called to the Reading Course. This Reading Course was authorized by the Luther League of America at the Toledo convention in August. This course is known as the Quadri-Centennial Luther League Reading Course. The Literature Committee was authorized to select for this course not less than four nor more than six books. Obedient to their instructions, the committee selected the list of books to be found on the advertising page of this number of the REVIEW. A choice of either one of four books is allowed in fiction. This course annuls the Luther League Reading Courses in use since the League was first organized.

The books have been selected with great care. The purpose has been to help the Luther Leaguer to know his Church better and also to enable him to inform other people what benefits the Reformation has conferred upon the whole world.

A Junior Reformation Celebration Course of three books has been arranged.

When these books in either course have been read, and the Literary Secretary is notified, a certificate or diploma will be issued to each member of the Luther League who has completed the course.

For those who desire to read more extensively, a supplemental Luther League Reading Course has been provided. These courses recommended by the Literature Committee, have been approved by the Executive Committee. These books may be obtained and should be ordered from the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, 318-326 West Thirty-ninth street, New York City, New York. The terms upon which these books can be secured will be found in the advertisement in this issue of the REVIEW.

CHRISTMAS IN SWEDEN

(*Continued from page* 8.)

the "Lut fisk" is eaten, boiled rice with cinnamon and cream is served, and this followed by the noted Christmas goose. It is safe to say that this is the Christmas dinner of almost every Swedish family in the country, and many of those who now claim America as their home still follow the custom of the home country in this particular.

At six o'clock Christmas morning everyone goes to church. It is as dark as midnight outside. The churches are crowded and the music and services well repay one for getting up early.

So the festivities continue. Parties for all, family reunions, sleighing parties and merry making of all sorts fill the holidays until the 13th of January, when the Christmas season is concluded.

One of the prettiest customs, which also indicates the kind hearts of the people, is that of giving the birds a Christmas treat. In every farm yard a tall pole is erected on which is fastened a sheaf of grain. When asked the reason for this, they reply: "Why, that is for the birds; you know they must have a Christmas treat also."

BOOK REVIEWS

MARTIN OF MANSFELD, by Margaret R. Seebach, published by Lutheran Publication Society, 1424 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa., bound in cloth, 75c. per copy.

This book is designed for the Missionary Education Movement of the United States and Canada. It is dedicated "To my sons for whom I can wish no better gifts than the courage and faith of Martin Luther."

There are eighteen chapters and 223 pages with illustrations. In the preface Mrs. Seebach beautifully tells how she found Luther and came to admire him. In the chapter, Torch Bearers, there is a splendid summing up of the work of the Reformation. Without exception this is the best biography of Luther for young people we have ever seen. It is a brilliant piece of editorial work. It is one of the books in the Junior Luther League Reading Course.

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Our Churches and Institutions

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NEW YORK

—A National Free Conference on Inner Mission was held in this city October 26 and 27. It is impossible in the brief space allotted to give any adequate idea of the purpose, plan and work of this conference. The institutional phase of Inner Mission received its share of attention. But the side of the work that is really new and not well understood by many church members was set forth in a splendid paper by Dr. E. D. Pfeiffer, of Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, whose subject was "Congregational Inner Missions." He showed that Inner Mission is, first of all, just what the words indicate, a development of the inner spiritual life of the church, outlined the scope of activities and pointed out methods that will help to develop it.

—On Sunday, October 29, the Lutheran Hospital of Manhattan was dedicated. The meeting was conducted, and the words of dedication were spoken by Hon. John H. Boschen, president of the Board of Trustees. Among the brief speeches made was one by Marcus L. Marks, president of the Borough of Manhattan. The building stands at the northeast corner of 144th street and Convent avenue. It is sufficiently commodious and adequately furnished for its purpose. It has forty beds arranged in wards, private rooms and semi-private rooms.

WASHINGTON

—The annual report of the Sunday School of Keller Memorial Church, Rev. S. T. Nicholas, D. D., pastor, shows an enrollment of 638 members and offerings amounting to $2,377.01.

CHICAGO

—Rev. J. A. Leas, formerly of Portland, Ore., has become pastor of Holy Trinity Church of this city. Rev. Leas is a Luther League worker and will add to the strength of the organization in Chicago.

SAN FRANCISCO

—Mr. Henry Miller, who died recently, left a bequest of $5,000 to the First Church of this city. This gift will free the First Church of debt.

COLUMBUS

—Dr. F. W. Stellhorn, dean of the Lutheran Seminary (Joint Synod of Ohio) at Columbus, celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of his birth recently. He is still actively engaged in study and teaching.

TOLEDO

—The Toledo Lutheran Ministers' Association has arranged a course of instruction in religion for high school students, and Rev. Wm. Brenner and Rev. L. H. Schuh have been appointed teachers.

ALBANY

—Seven Lutheran congregations and their pastors united in the first of a series of Quadri-Centennial Services to be held in Albany up to Reformation Day 1917. This first service was held at St. John's Church on Central avenue, Rev. Yost Brandt, pastor. Six pastors shared in conducting the altar service, and Dr. Chas. W. Leitzell, president of the New York Synod, was the speaker on the topic, "Luther and the Reformation."

—The Lutheran pastors and laymen of Albany have formed an organization to conduct the Quadri-Centennial Celebration. Pastor Yost Brandt is chairman; Mr. Eugene Crounse, secretary; Mr. J. Howard Hahn, treasurer, and one layman from each congregation is on the committee.

—St. John's Luther League originated the movement to conduct this service and will use all efforts to make the services to follow all that the occasion demands. It is also contemplated to have a civic Mass Meeting some time in 1917.

SYRACUSE

—After extensive alterations and repairs, the edifice of St. John's Church was reconsecrated on Sunday, October 22. The improvements include a new altar, pulpit, and emblematic windows, including the Luther League emblem in the circular window in the spire. Rev. John Wittekind is pastor.

SAVANNAH

—The Lutheran Brotherhood of this city has arranged a series of twelve meetings for the festival year, to which all Protestants are invited. At each meeting a member of the Brotherhood gives an address, but the main address of the evening will be given by an invited speaker.

GENERAL

—Rev. Ephraim Ceder, pastor of the Swedish Augustana congregation in Haxtum, Col., has accepted the call to become the pioneer missionary of the newly organized Pan Lutheran Society for work in Latin America. He will leave Colorado for the sailing port in New York at the close of this month, making a number of stops en route eastward at places where the new outlook of the Lutheran Church in South America can be presented.

—Spurgeon Milton Keeny, of Shrewbury, a Lutheran and a graduate of Gettysburg College, has been chosen as "Rhodes Scholar" from Pennsylvania and has begun his work at Oxford University.

—The Pastoral Association of Easton, Pa., and Phillipsburg, N. J., has arranged a series of reformation themes for Sunday evenings until May 20.

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We will send any of these books postpaid on receipt of price quoted, or on receipt of $5.00 for 10 new subscriptions to the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW will send any choice of $2.00 worth of books as a premium.

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Luther League

SEND IN THE NEWS—Under this heading we aim to give the fullest reports possible of all District and Local Leagues. Secretaries and other officers are earnestly solicited to send in reports and items of news promptly.

Luther League of America

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Sec., SERAPHA PETERSON, No. St. Paul.
Treas., A. F. OLSON, Duluth.

LUTHER LEAGUE OF CONNECTICUT—
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Sec., CLARA A. SUCHER, 186 Gilbert Ave., New Haven.
Treas., WILLIAM SCHAEFER, Middletown.

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Treas., ESTHER LARSON, 361 31st St., Astoria, Ore.

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Sec., MISS ELISABETH TOEDTER, 804 S. Burlington Ave., Hastings.
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Sec., MISS VENICE BARKER, Battle Creek.
Treas., ERNEST IHRIG, Detroit.

LUTHER LEAGUE OF CANADA—
Pres., E. B. WESTCOTT, Trinity, Hamilton.
Sec., LAURA VOLLMER, St. Paul's, Galt.
Treas., H. SHENNETT, Morrisburg.

District Leagues in States Not Organized

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Pres., F. W. LEONHARDT, 1009 D St., N. E., Washington.
Sec., G. R. HUTTEL, 94 Rhode Island Ave., N. W., Washington.
Treas., G. H. GODRON, 4608 Georgia Ave., N. W., Washington.

LUTHER LEAGUE OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA—
Pres., CHAS. L. TRABERT, 2736 Elmwood Ave., Berkeley.
Sec., Rev. J. E. HOICK, 180 E. Julian St., San Jose.
Treas., MYRON HESTORFF, 337 Salinas St., Salinas.

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Pres., CARL M. DISTLER, Esq., 2905 N. Calvert St., Baltimore.
Sec., LOUISE W. QUENSEN, 2229½ W. Pratt St., Baltimore.
Treas., HARRY GOEDEKE, 21 W. Saratoga St., Baltimore.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK DISTRICT

—In connection with its October delegates meeting the Luther League of New York City gave a Hallowe'en social at St. John's Church, 79 Christopher street. The routine business of the meeting was disposed of as quickly as possible to allow time for an address by Dr. Oberlander, pastor of St. John's Church, and for the evening's entertainment, consisting chiefly of readings by Miss Grace Muir Warner and vocal music by Miss Etta Robertson and Miss Brenda Stock of St. James Quartet. Appropriate games were introduced and refreshments were served by the two young people's societies of St. John's Church.

MOHAWK VALLEY DISTRICT

—The twenty-fifth annual convention of the Luther League of the Mohawk Valley District was held October 17, 1916, at St. Paul's Church, St. Johnsville.

There were thirteen Leagues represented with fifty-four delegates and fifty-eight visitors. An interesting feature of the convention was that four of the Leagues represented were from the city of Utica, where the Leagues are making preparations for the twenty-fourth annual State convention of the Luther League, which is to be held at St. Paul's Church.

At the morning session Rev. Dr. B. E. Fake, D. D., pastor of the local church, conducted the devotional service. Greetings were extended by Miss Jennie Dingman, president of St. Paul's League. Rev. Gustav J. Reumann, of Christ Church, Little Falls, gave a very inspiring address on "The Meaning or Purpose of Life."

Reports of officers and committees showed that there was a balance of $51.77 in the treasury. Also, that there were eighteen Luther Leagues and three Junior Leagues in this District.

Greetings were received from Louis A. Wilke, State President of the Luther League, with best wishes for an interesting and profitable convention.

The afternoon session opened with devotional service conducted by the pastor of the church.

The speakers for the afternoon session were as follows:

Rev. Frederic K. Vogt, pastor of the Church of Holy Communion, Utica, addressed the convention on "What Is Life? An Appeal for Christian Service." The only satisfactory answer to the question, "What is life?" is the answer of Jesus Christ: "If any man would be great among you let him be as a servant." Usefulness is greatness. There is no other. Jesus lived and died to serve. It is for this reason God and the ages have highly exalted Him, so that now His name is above every other name. So we all must lose our life if we would find it.

Rev. J. E. Grubb, of St. James' Church, Gloversville, addressed the Convention, his topic being, "Placing the Emphasis." He very forcibly brought out that men, companies and organizations are placing the emphasis in the wrong place. We should not be satisfied with our mere existence, but should do something for others.

A committee of five was appointed to arrange for a program to be carried out by the local Leagues during the coming year, bearing on the Quadri-Centennial Celebration.

The President was authorized to send two copies of the Convention Number of the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW to each of the local Leagues in the Mohawk Valley District.

The evening session was opened by devotional services, after which Rev. Charles Leitzell, D. D., of Albany, delivered an address. His theme was the consecration of man to the service of God.

The following were elected to hold office during the coming year:

President—Mr. Elmer A. Shineman, Canajoharie, N. Y.

Vice-President—Mr. Theo. Steinhorst, Utica, N. Y.

Treasurer—Mr. Louis A. Biel, Utica, N. Y.

Corresponding Secretary—Miss Tillie Leis, Utica, N. Y.

Recording Secretary—Mr. Harry J. Colerick, Utica, N. Y.

—Twenty-five members of the Luther Leagues of Utica attended the District Convention held at St. Johnsville, October 17. They were boosting the 1917 State Convention which will be held in their city in May. All wore neat badges inscribed "Meet Me at Utica, May 29, 30, 31, 1917," and distributed folders reading: "We are some boosters. Will you help us to make this next convention the largest and most enthusiastic ever held?"

SYRACUSE DISTRICT

—The Young People's Society and the Junior Luther League of Zion's Church, Syracuse, have disbanded and formed a Luther League according to the model constitution in the Luther League Handbook. At present there is no Junior Luther League, but one will be formed in the near future. The officers of the League are as follows: President, Dr. H. C. Yeckel; Vice-President, Wm. H. Miller; Treasurer, H. W. Knaul; Secretary, J. J. Fadel, 238 Carbon street; Corresponding Secretary, Miss M. E. Knoff, 1225 Highland street.

NEW JERSEY

—The District Luther League of South Jersey was recently organized. The officers elected are: President, Miss Carolona Nolde, Riverside; Secretary, Miss Louise Schindler, Camden, Treasurer; Miss Hazel Seisman, Camden.

CONNECTICUT

—The Luther League of Trinity Church, New Haven, has published a suitable tribute to the pastor, Rev. J. A. Timm, who died early in autumn.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT

—The Philadelphia District Luther League met in fall convention in the Church of the Incarnation, Rev. A. T. Michler, pastor. The afternoon session was devoted to the reports of officers and committees which proved the year to have been one of advancement and unusual activity. Three Junior and four Luther Leagues were added to the District League during the year. Besides this, three new features were introduced, which proved so successful that they

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were recommended for future conventions. These were a Junior Convention, an outing or picnic and a presidents' dinner. The address at this session was delivered by Mr. H. G. Deininger on "The Value of a Convention." He stated that the value is determined by the result or effect of the convention, and that all conventions should have social, educational, practical spiritual and inspirational value. A spirited discussion of the topic followed.

—Three simultaneous conferences were held during the afternoon session—one for pastors, one for Junior workers and one for officers and committeemen.

Reports of the State and National Conventions were made at the evening session.

The address was delivered by Rev. Howard R. Gold on "The Part of the Luther League in the Quadri-Centennial Celebration." He urged following the new reading course, and also emphasized the raising of the Jubilee Fund and the increasing of membership. He said the Leaguers should make a greater attempt toward coordination and co-operation than ever before. He suggested many ways in which the Leagues could take a definite part in local programs.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, J. Milton Deck; Vice-President, Carl Fromuth; Recording Secretary, Marion V. Hirzel; Financial Secretary, Henry H. Silling; Statistical Secretary, Ida H. Zinser; Treasurer, H. Carl Albrecht.

The resolution committee recommended among other things the use of the new reading course, Handbook and Review, and raising of the Jubilee Fund as recommended by the National Convention.

A most earnest appeal was made by Mr. William C. Stoever to the District for the support of one of her own, Mr. Harry Hodges, the general secretary. Mr. Hodges, in a few words, expressed his appreciation and said that whatever we think, say or do, it should always be to the glory of Christ.

The pastors offered the following: We believe that the Luther League is a good vehicle through which church work can be carried on, and that it gives an added opportunity for church work. That a clear and concise objective for each League is desirable, the same to be determined by the local congregation. That the pastors make an earnest effort to increase the membership of their Leagues. That the Quadri-Centennial be emphasized in all our Leagues during 1917.

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

—The Four Cities Luther League, including the societies at Donora, Monessen, Monongahela and Charleroi, held a special rally service on September 18th. Rev. J. Elmer Bittle, D.D., of Pittsburgh, was the speaker of the evening.

LANCASTER DISTRICT

—The Luther League of St. Stephen's Church, Lancaster, Rev. C. S. Roberts, pastor, tendered a farewell reception to Miss Amelia Kroech, who has entered the Deaconess Motherhouse at Baltimore to prepare for the deaconess work.

BUCKS, MONTGOMERY AND CHESTER DISTRICT

—A meeting at which more than one thousand people gathered marked the beginning of the jubilee year by the Luther Leaguers of this District. It was held in Trinity Church, Perkasie, Rev. N. Y. Ritter, pastor.

Mr. Elmer Becker was chairman of the meeting and Mr. Sydney R. Kepner, of Pottstown, president of the District League, extended greetings. "Young Men in the League" was the subject of an interesting talk by Mr. George Moyer, of Hillstown. The principal address of the evening was delivered by Rev. L. B. Wolf, D. D., of Baltimore, on "The Lutheran Reformation and World Evangelization." The speaker gave an interesting outline of the laying of the foundation of modern missions by the Lutheran Church, and a statement about the Lutheran Church's present mission operations. Another meeting of similar character was planned, to be held in St. John's Church, Richlandtown,

—The sub-committee on music for the Reformation celebration desires to produce anthems suitable for the Reformation Jubilee and offers three awards—$75, $50, and $25. Anthems of two grades of difficulty are requested and must not exceed sixteen pages octavo. The contest closes February 1, 1917. For particulars and suggested texts address H. R. Gold, Secretary, 925 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

—The District League and the District Luther League of Baltimore are considering the advisability of organizing a State League.

—The C. E. Society of Luther Memorial Church, Rev. Henry Austad, pastor, and the C. E. Society of the Church of the Reformation, Rev. Dr. Nicholas, pastor, have recently affiliated with the District of Columbia Luther League.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE DISTRICT

—The Luther League of Baltimore and vicinity held its first fall meeting on September

A RELIC OF MARTIN LUTHER

Showing the room in Wartburg Castle (Germany) in which Martin Luther translated the New Testament. This is considered one of the most interesting subjects to Lutherans that has ever been offered. All the furniture, the pictures on the wall of Luther's father and mother, the old but quaint porcelain stove, the mullioned windows with the sunlight streaming through and much of Luther's handwriting on the walls are plainly shown. We are the sole and exclusive owners of the original engraving (which is almost 250 years old) and from this we have had reproduced by one of the best engraving firms a limited number of copies. Size, 14 x 18 inches. A copy of this valuable and historic engraving should be in every Lutheran household, pastor's study, assembly room and especially in every

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26, 1916, at the First Lutheran Church of Govans, Rev. Phillipy, pastor. It was the beginning of activities for the winter and there was a splendid attendance of the young people. The devotional service was in charge of Dr. J. S. McDowell. The president, Mr. C. M. Distler, conducted the meeting.

Dr. S. W. Herman, of Harrisburg, spoke of a vision of a conquering Church. This conquering Church must be five things—a believing Church made up of believing individuals; a praying Church, with praying individuals; the power of vision for the Church to see as its field the whole world; a giving Church, with individuals who give; and, finally, a serving Church with individuals who are serving by doing personal work. He closed his earnest appeal to the young people with the remark that next summer he hoped to have 54 over against the 14 this past summer.

Following this address the pageant, "An Appeal to the Church," was given by twenty-five of the young people. It was a most impressive and significant spectacle.

—The Luther League of St. Mark's Church, Dr. Dunbar, pastor, began its Reformation celebration series of lectures with an illustrated lecture by the pastor on "The Reformation."

VIRGINIA

—Several local societies in this State have appointed committees to effect the organization of a District League, and a State League is also being considered.

OHIO

The enrollment of the Luther League of Trinity Church, Akron, Rev. E. W. Simon, is 79, with an average attendance of 49 for the past year. At the recent annual meeting the following officers were elected: Raymond G. Lutz, president; Lucy Schaefer, vice-president; Edna M. Althoff, secretary; Ruth L. Ward, assistant secretary; Wm. G. Herrmann, treasurer; Mrs. Wm. G. Herrmann, pianist; George D. Rentschler, librarian; Ruth Boettler, assistant librarian.

—A Luther League has been organized in St. Mark's Church, Fremont, Rev. Marker, pastor. Several visitors from Toledo Leagues were present on the occasion of the organization.

—The Luther League of New Lebanon congregation, Junction City parish, is placing Peter's "History of the Reformation" in every family of the congregation, and expects to do likewise with some church paper.

INDIANA

RICHMOND DISTRICT

—The Richmond District held its second semi-annual convention at Zion's Church, East Germantown, October 8th. The afternoon program included interesting papers and discussions on "Why I am a Luther Leaguer" and "The Luther League, a Factor in the Upbuilding of the Lutheran Church," which were followed by an address by Rev. Frank Dressel, of Richmond, on "What the Lutheran Church Stands for."

At the business meeting a constitution was adopted for this newly organized District League and a new president, Mr. Walter Scholl, of Lyonsville, was elected. Another new League was elected for membership—Lyonsville.

At 6.45, following a supper served at the Parish House, a model devotional meeting was held, led by Miss Elsie Trostel, Anderson. The State president, Oliver C. C. Fetta, then spoke on "Inner Missions." All Leagues belonging to this District were well represented.

CENTRAL INDIANA DISTRICT

—This District League met at Whitestown recently. Rev. L. W. Sifferd of Indianapolis delivered the principal address on "The Year of Jubilee."

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO DISTRICT

—The Luther League of Bethel Church held its annual banquet October 24th. About 150 people were present.

—The Luther League of Immanuel Church, Rev. C. E. Paulus, is conducting a lecture course in an effort to raise a pledge of $500. The first number was given October 6th, when the lecture was given by former Judge Harry Olson on "The Municipal Court." The second was given November 3d, when Dr. Geo. L. Scherger, of the Armour Institute, spoke on "American Ideals." The speakers for the other programs include well known lecturers. The course comprises a number of programs and is under the direction of Mr. Richard Helm and Miss Bertha Iserloh.

MICHIGAN

—Preliminary steps to the formation of a State Luther League have been taken. The first meeting with this object directly in view was held in St. Paul's Church, Detroit, Rev. H. D. Miley, pastor. So far ten Leagues are cooperating, and others may join the group before the meeting for organization is held at Battle Creek in September, 1917. Rev. F. L. Lineberger has been chosen president.

KANSAS

—Rev. R. R. Weismiller, of Kansas City, has been elected chairman of the executive committee of the Luther League of Kansas.

NEBRASKA

—The Luther League at Benson, Rev. C. Wilbur Nelson, pastor, has doubled its membership during the past year.

CALIFORNIA

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

—The eleventh annual convention of the Central California District League was held in St. Michael's Church, Berkeley, October 31. The scheduled speakers were: Rev. J. R. Brauer, on "The Luther League and Lutheran Literature"; Rev. Emil Meyers, on "Lutheran Unity through the Luther League"; Rev. H. M. Leech, on "Sixteenth Century Lessons Needed Today"; Rev. G. H. Hillerman, on "Opportunities for a Loyal Luther Leaguer"; Mr. Charles Trabert, "Gleanings from the National Luther League Convention at Toledo." A symposium on the "Weekly Religious Meetings" was arranged as follows: "The Leader's Part," O. H. Weibel; "The Part of Music," Rev. H. S. Feix; "Presentation of Topic," Rev. W. S. Crouser, D. D., and "Prayer," Rev. Herman Gehrcke. At the rally in the evening Rev. H. C. Funk spoke on "Reformation Principles Applicable Today," and Rev. H. S. Feix on "Reformation Dynamics."

——The C. E. Society of the First Church, Oakland, has changed its name to "Luther League." This society has just completed a canvass of the congregation and secured sixteen new subscriptions to a church paper, and has also volunteers to raise $75 to purchase new books of worship for the congregation.

Luther League Topics

First Week
after Epiphany. January 7, 1917.

"OUT LUTHERAN WORK IN INDIA"

(Foreign Missions)

Rom. 10:11-15.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

New Year's Day: Gal. 3:23-29.
Tuesday, January 2: Jas. 5:15-20.
Wednesday, January 3: I Thess. 1:1-10.
Thursday, January 4: Acts 8:4-8.
Friday, January 5: Luke 4:16-21.
Epiphany Day, January 6: Isa. 60:1-6.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Decide before hand just how you will use your time. Study the map of India and give some idea of the country. (See any good encyclopedia.) If possible have a few missionary stories and tell them. Use the Luther League Hymnal. Have exhibition of pictures. Hymns 44, 48. Read Psalm 2 responsively. Scripture Lesson (read by Leader) Rom. 10:11-15. Hymns 42, 139. Remarks on Topic by the Leader. Special instrumental music. Recitations:

THE TRUE NEED

I do not wish to see my sins more plain,
But this: to know Thy life, without a stain.
I would not see the vileness of my heart,
But this would know: how pure and true Thou art.
I would forget my paltry life, so small,
And know Thy greatness, Thou, my All in All.
O, teach me not how deep my spirit's night,
But flood me with Thy beams, Thou Perfect.

THOMAS CURTIS CLARK.

THIS WILL BRING BLESSING

The best thing that hearts that are thankful can do
Is this: to make thankful some other too;
For lives that are grateful and sunny and glad,
To carry their sunshine to lives that are sad,
For children who have all they want and to spare,
Their good things with poor little children to share,
For this will bring blessing, and this is the way,
To show we are tankful to God every day.

A THOUGHT OF TODAY

Not for the eyes of men
May this day's work be done;
But unto Thee, O God,
That, with the setting sun,
My heart may know the matchless prize
Of sure approval in Thy eyes.

THOMAS CURTIS CLARK.

Hymns 214-212. Discussions based on both articles in THE REVIEW and Topics. Summing up by the pastor. Hymn 217. Lord's Prayer. Benediction.
(Topic reviewed by Mrs. David A. Davey.)

We believe that our mission work in India is so significant, and that our missionaries have wrought so wonderfully for God and man, it is more important for us to show some of the conditions in India under which the missionaries have worked, than to give a long list of statistics. We believe each Leaguer will want to read the history of our work in India.

Paul, the great missionary, has showed so beautifully in our scripture lesson the privilege and duty of believers.

The part of world missions that we are to consider is located in the Orient. The land that has been called the despair and the glory of Christian missions.

India, with one-fifth of the population of the globe, has three hundred fifteen millions of people. They speak sixteen languages, with more than one hundred sixty minor dialects.

Her many false religions, as Brahmanism, Hinduism, Mohammedanism, and Demon worship, together with the system of caste, effects the whole life of the land, and makes a very low standard of civilization as a whole.

Superstitious people wherever found are debasing, and they multiply complications, as there is a lack of individuality and moral courage.

The caste system controls such a large part of the life of the Hindu. It regulates their standard of prestige. The institution of caste is upheld by the highest and most advanced as well as by the lower Hindu scriptures. One must always remain in the same caste in which they are born. They will starve rather than receive food or drink from another caste. If the shadow of a stranger falls upon one's prepared food it is polluted.

Twenty-three hundred and seventy-eight principal castes are enumerated in the census, and at least four times as many more in the lower caste.

Twenty-five centuries ago it is said Brahma, the creator, caused the august Brahman, or priest, to proceed out of his divine mouth; the royal Kshatriya, or soldier, from his shoulders; the trading, commercial Vaisya from his thighs, and the menial Sudra from his feet. Each of these four castes has many sub-divisions. Below all are the Pariahs, or outcastes.

Many of the animals and rivers are considered sacred. The Ganges is looked upon as the most sacred river. Its waters are believed to wash away sin. A pilgrimage is made once in twelve years to each of the twelve sacred rivers.

The lowest order of animal life is looked upon as sacred by many. They will not kill any insect. Some are so devout they will sweep the streets for fear of stepping on insects. Some cover the mouth with gauze lest they swallow and destroy the minute forms of life.

The cow is held as most sacred, and the flesh is strictly forbidden for food.

Just recently I heard a missionary say she had never seen a girl baby petted in India by her mother unless the mother was a converted Christian, but had heard them left to cry until exhausted, and then they

The Luther League Topics, complete lessons (of which the above are outlines and review), in 32-page pamphlet, covering three months can be supplied at rates given on page 24 by LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, 318-326 West 39th Street, New York City.

would fall asleep. The baby boy is petted, amused, carried and well nourished.

The womanhood of India has been depressed and neglected physically, morally and spiritually. Child wifehood, perpetual widowhood and the seclusion in Zenanas make their lives ignorant and narrow. Her eyes are ever open to appease the will of her false god. Her husband is her lord. It is said that the great law giver, Manu, said, "as far only as a wife honors her lord, so far is she exalted to heaven." She receives salvation through proxy, her happiness here and hereafter depends on her devotion to her husband.

It is appalling. Over two hundred and seventy-three thousand wives are under ten years of age. Twenty-six million widows, or one out of every six women are under the curse of perpetual widowhood. Not one woman in one hundred and fifty can read a printed page.

Only a few of the vast population of India can be classed as intellectual. The edifices which crown many of the cities are noted for their architectural beauty. These buildings have been designed by master minds. India has been changing in its physical, moral and religious life during the last century.

For more than a century the followers of Jesus have carried the glad tidings of good things to India. Our Lord knows no difference between the Jew and the Greek, and is the same over all that believeth on Him, for "In Christ there is no East nor West; in Him no South nor North."

Four of our Lutheran bodies are working among the Telegus. Two of the largest stations are at Guntus, under the supervision of the General Synod, and at Rajahmundry under the General Council.

Organized American Lutheran work was first instituted in 1841 under the direction of Father Heyer. Following in his steps consecrated men and women have extensively worked through every avenue opened to the missionary.

Some of the missionaries are Dr. Uhl, who went out in 1873, Dr. Kugler in 1883, Miss Schade in 1890. A letter dated September, 1916, says, "the work is progressing nicely, every one just as busy as can be."

In a recent stereopticon lecture on India I saw a slide of a large Luther League thrown on the screen. The missionary lecturer said: "We get our helpers from this League for our Sunday School and for Christian work in the villages." The fact is stated that one young women going to India as a missionary attributes her decision largely to the influence of the Luther League.

These two references, one to a Luther League in India, the other to one in America, are pertinent to show how Christ moves upon the hearts of Luther Leaguers to do His will in India and America, that the world may be one in Him.

—♣—

Second Week
after Epiphany. January 14, 1917.

"WHEN THE YOUNG LUTHERAN LEAVES HIS HOME TOWN"

(Missionary)

Gen. 12:1-9

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday, January 8: Luke 15:11-24.
Tuesday, January 9: Matt. 19:16-22.
Wednesday, January 10: Ps. 119:9-16.
Thursday, January 11: Ps. 119:169-176.
Friday, January 12: Eccl. 11:9-12:8.
Saturday, January 13: John 11:1-16.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

After opening the meeting give an opportunity for some present to tell of their experience when leaving home. Assign to several members a discussion of how Inner Missions can help those away from home, and the place and work of the student pastor.

Instrumental music. Hymn 28. Psalm 95 read responsively, all standing, and led by the president of the League. Scripture lesson, Gen. 12:1-9 read by the Leader who may use collect "For Aid Against Temptation." (L. L. Hymnal, p. X.) Hymns 149, 164. Remarks by the Leader. Music—have a quartette sing Hymn 158 in L. L. Hymnal. Discussion of Topic presented in THE REVIEW.. Discussion of Topic presented in Topics leaflet. Remarks by Sunday School Superintendent. Remarks by Bible Class Teachers. Hymns 166. 150. Announcements. Lord's Prayer. Benediction.

(Topic reviewed by Mr. J. T. Berger.)

God called Abram to leave his old home at the age of seventy-five. Abram took with him his wife, his nephew Lot and all their possessions. What great faith Abram must have had in the Lord, that he forsook all and followed His bidding.

Abram and his party kept going in the way that God had directed until he reached the land of Canaan. Then God again called to him and told him: "Unto thy seed will I give this land." Abram thanked God by building an altar and worshipping at that place.

God today calls people from one place to another as He did Abram of old. Often we are called to different places, and do not realize that it is God who is directing us. More especially is this true of the young people as they go away from their homes and home congregations to the various schools and colleges. They do not, like Abram, realize that the Lord is directing them to go to that "Land of Canaan," and they, unlike Abram, often forget to worship God and His altars when away from home.

I. *Our Lutheran Students:*

Annually several hundred thousand young Lutherans leave their homes and home congregations for education's sake. Realizing this fact, the Luther League of Iowa, at a recent convention, appointed a committee who should notify the Lutheran Churches in the college towns of the Lutheran students attending school in these towns. This committee wrote several hundred letters to the Lutheran pastors throughout the state, asking them to advise the committee of all students of their congregations, giving the name of either the school or college they were attending and that the committee would then notify the various college town Leagues that such and such persons were about to attend school in their town, and for them to look these students up. But, owing to the lack of coöperation on the part of the pastors, the work has not been as successful as it might have been.

At one state university in the Middle West, the enrollment of students is about 3,400, with approximately 340 Lutheran students. Of this number about one-third attend Sunday School, Church and Luther League regularly, and one-third of them occasionally and the other one-third not at all. This is not the fault of either the local pastor or the local Luther League. They surely are doing all they can to interest the students, but it is often the fault of the young people themselves and often the fault of the home churches. If this same percentage holds true in all the colleges throughout the United States, no wonder our Lutheran Church is not making a more rapid gain, with this loss to overcome every year.

The young people, as they are about to leave for school, should be urged to attend the Lutheran Church in the college city, rather than let them go to the Methodist, Presbyterian or other churches. True, the fault too often lies with the young person himself. When going to a strange place, everything is strange. The people are strange, the pastor is strange, the surroundings are strange. But those at home personally interested in the student should teach him to feel at home at any Lutheran service anywhere. The student also should not permit himself to get into the habit of staying away from church. The student owes this much to himself, and no one can do it for him.

II. *The Church Attendance:*

The great number of unaccounted baptized and confirmed Lutherans is increasing every day, and the percentage of church attendance is decreasing annually especially in the foreign tongue churches.

Young people of the rural churches are coming in multitudes to the cities to seek work. They become so enwrapped by the lure of the city that they forget the church. Their new companions in the workshop, at the bench, or behind the counter do not speak to them about the church. They talk about the latest shows, movies, dances and other attractions. This leads the young stranger to think that the city people are not God-fearing people. This fact does not help our young people to remember their Church; consequently, they wander away. In this way we are losing so many of our people.

Take a case in point. The writer knows a young lady that came from a rural community to clerk in a large department store in a city. On the first Sunday she went to the ———— Lutheran Church, which she always attended at home. She was a stranger and no one spoke to her. She went several Sundays, and still no one ever spoke to her or noticed her. One week one of the boys in the store spoke to her and asked her to go to the Presbyterian Church, and so on the following Sunday she went. There everybody spoke to her, and tried to make her welcome and feel at home. She became a very active worker in the Christian Endeavor Society of that church. It was the power of acquaintance. However, she longed for the good old Lutheran service. About a year afterwards one of the girls in her department asked her to go to another Lutheran Church in the city with her. She said: "You are a Lutheran, and this is the first time you asked me to attend the Lutheran Church. I have waited so long to attend a Lutheran service but have never been asked by any one before." She attended that meeting and enjoyed being again among Lutherans. She is now a very efficient worker for the Luther League. I am not offering this as an excuse for the young lady's not going again to her own Church, I am giving a concrete case to show our problem. This is only one case in a hundred of its kind existing everywhere. It illustrates the kind of work the Leaguers are called to do. Maybe the young woman should have made herself known. But this is only one side of the case. We have a work to do for the stranger in our midst. We owe something to those away from home. "Am I my brother's keeper?" should be very strongly impressed on the hearts of all.

III. *Our Duty:*

Leaguers, if a new person is employed in your department, speak to them about your Church, invite them to the services, take them with you for a few Sundays and see to it that they are there. Be a reception committee of one to look after that person. They will appreciate it.

The greatest responsibility for young people away from home lies with the Leagues in the cities and college and university towns. In the West is a city where there is a Presbyterian College with an enrollment of about 900 students. Among these there are about twenty Lutheran students from outside of the city. In the Business College in this same city, with an enrollment of about 350, there are about twenty-five Lutheran students. The Luther League of this city holds a reception each fall for these Lutheran students. To each local Leaguer is assigned some of the students on whom to call. It is made the duty of the local Leaguer to bring them to the Luther League, Sunday School and the Church Services. The Leaguers go, get them, and see that the students are there. The results pay for the effort.

Questions for discussion:

1. What can Leaguers do for our members who are called to leave home?
2. What can Leaguers do for the young Lutherans who are strangers in our town?
3. How can the Luther League help to keep the young people away from home loyal in Church membership?

ILLUSTRATION OF TOPIC

A needed and blessed work is done at the Ohio State University, in that an attempt is made to gather the Lutheran students of that center of learning in a Bible Class. Saint Mark's, whose splendid structure affords the best of facilities, being near the State University campus, a rallying point for the class was easily found. Formerly some of our most promising Lutheran material at O. S. U. was inveigled into sectarian Sunday Schools and churches, owing to the failure of our Lutherans to work the university field. If Lutheran students now slight the Church in which their vows were made, it is not because no attention is paid to them and their need. After Sunday school the majority of the students remain for the regular service in St. Mark's Church, whose courteous members do not fail to make them feel at home. There is also a sprinkling of Capital University students in St. Mark's University Class.—*Lutheran Youth.*

Third Week
after Epiphany. January 21, 1917.

"OUR LUTHERAN WORK IN MADAGASCAR"

(Foreign Missions)

Acts 16:9-13

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday, January 15: Psalm 97:1-12.
Tuesday, January 16: Isaiah 11:1-16.
Wednesday, January 17: Isaiah 41:1-7.
Thursday, January 18: Isaiah 49:1-13.
Friday, January 19: Zeph. 2:1-11.
Saturday, January 20: Isaiah 42:1-12.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Plan your meeting. Open with some special music. All standing read Psalm 72 responsively. Sing Hymns 35; 43. Have the vice-president of your League read the Scripture Lesson. Acts 16:9-13. Prayer by the pastor. Hymn 66. Remarks by the Leader. Have the president of the Woman's Missionary Society give a ten-minute address. Sing Hymn 148. Recitation.

FAITH—NOT SIGHT

Our rules of life all seem broken,
The compass no longer points true.
A seething world in commotion,
Transition—from old to new.

We had earth's problems all ciphered.
And the answers written plain,
Now we find were in error,
And we have them to do again.

Father—this avalanche of suffering?
This holocaust of blood?
Men—cut-up so cheaply,—
Human woe, at such a flood?

Maybe we've wandered from the path,
Playing with earthly toys,
Forgetting in follies here
Another world of joys.

We're seeking the Way again,
The highway of right.
Coming with our lesson,
Walking by Faith,—not Sight.

SAXE CHURCHILL STIMSON.

Have several two or three minute talks based on the articles in both THE REVIEW and The Topics. Sing Hymn 207. Lord's Prayer. Benediction.

(Topic reviewed by H. J. Halman.)

In the year 52 A. D. Paul made his second missionary journey. While on this journey he received his call to Macedonia.

Paul and his fellow laborers, Luke, Timotheus and Silas, were on the way to Bithynia; but the Spirit suffered them not. There was a more fertile field white unto the harvest awaiting for the Gospel.

And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas by the seashore.

At night a vision appeared to Paul. He was a man of vision from the day while near Damascus there shined round about him a light from heaven.

In obedience to this heavenly vision he became the greatest missionary the world has ever known.

This is what Paul saw in the vision at night in Troas: "There stood a man of Macedonia, and praying him, Come over into Macedonia, and help us." Come away from Asia into Europe. We need help over in

Europe. We need the Gospel as preached by Paul.

This man was the representative of all the European people. The prayer of this man was the prayer of Europe.

In the prayer of the man from Macedonia, Paul heard the call of the Lord. And immediately they made ready for the journey. They sailed over the Agean Sea to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; And from thence to Phillippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia and a Roman colony.

No sooner had he come into the city before he began, as was always his custom, to ascertain if there were any Jews in the city, for they were first entitled to hear the Gospel. Here the Jews were scarce as we gather from the fact that they had no synagogue, but had to be content with gathering for worship outside the city wall by a river side.

To this place of worship Paul and his followers went on the Sabbath day.

They found a few women gathered for worship. To these women Paul preached the Gospel for the first time in this part of Europe.

A certain woman, Lydia by name, became the first fruit of Paul's mission in Macedonia. And not many days hence we find a flourishing congregation in the city of Phillippi. From his letter to this congregation we gather that this became the most ideal congregation among all the congregations planted by Paul. (Phil. 1:3-8.)

This naturally leads us to some consideration of our Lutheran work in Madagascar. Madagascar is a large island near the east coast of Africa. It ranks third in size and is about one thousand miles long and four hundred miles wide, or twice as large as Norway. In 1895 the island became a French Colony.

The natives are principally of the Malayan race, the same as the natives of the Philippine Islands, but mixed with Arabs and Negroes.

Madagascar has a population of four million people. These people worship the great "Sanahara" and departed parents and relatives. In their mode of living they are barbaric and have no knowledge of cleanliness and sanitation.

The tropical climate, with its excessive heat and prevailing malarial-fever, is exceedingly hazardous to the health and lives of our American and European missionaries.

The Catholics were the first to begin their missionary enterprise on the island, but with very small success.

The first Protestant mission was begun by the London Society in 1828.

The first Lutheran work on Madagascar was begun in 1866 by the Norwegian Mission Society of Norway. And this mission is not only the oldest, but also by far the largest. There baptized Christians number about 100,000, and about 150 missionaries and workers with about 125 native pastors and a great number of native teachers and evangelists.

In 1890 The United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America sent two representatives, Rev. P. A. Rasmussen and Rev. Lois Lund to negotiate with the Norwegian Mission Society of Norway for a part of their field on the island. In 1892 this society transfered to the United Norwegian Lutheran Church, the east and west Tanovia, Mahofali of Antandro, with a population of 300,000 heathens. Twenty-three missionaries are at work; about ten native pastors and ninety-five native teachers and evangelists. During these twenty-four years about 3000 heathens have been baptized. About 1500 children and adults are receiving Christian instruction annually. But the sad fact yet remains that there are still eight main stations each with a population of 15,000 without a single missionary. These are looking to the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America for the bread of life.

The Norwegian Lutheran Free Church of America are also conducting an aggressive mission work on the island. They have four missionaries at work.

Every missionary on the island is standing night and day praying: "Come over and help us." The harvest is great, but the laborers are few.

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Fourth Week
after Epiphany. January 28, 1917.

"CHURCH EXTENSION: A PERENNIAL BLESSING"

(Home Missionary)

I Kings 17:8-16.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday, January 22: I Chron. 22:1-5.
Tuesday, January 23: I Chron. 22:6-19.
Wednesday, January 24: I Chron. 29:1-9.
Thursday, January 25: I Chron. 29:10-22.
Friday, January 26: I Kings 6:1-38.
Saturday, January 27: I Kings 8:22-61.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

A week before hand plan for the meeting. Assign different members to service in doing certain things. Aim at results in your meeting. Do not make your meeting stiff and formal. Open either with some well known hymns in a social way, or by using the opening Service in The Topics. Read responsively Psalm 122. Use the collect "For the Church" (L. L. Hymnal page IX). Have an assistant leader read the scripture lesson I Kings 17:8-16. Prayer by the pastor. Recitation:

THE HOUR OF PRAYER

The temple's door stands open wide;
Two men are drawing near.
Behold, they enter side by side,
It is the hour of prayer.
With stately mien, one swiftly moves
Toward the mercy-seat,
All confident God will receive
His prayer as service sweet.

MARY WELDEN.

Intersperse the program with singing and short talks, close by using The Lord's Prayer, Doxology and Benediction.

Elijah did as God told him. He went to Zarephath. At the entrance to the city he met a widow woman whom he asked for entertainment. At first she refused, but later she offered hospitality to the man of God.

This kindness to Elijah in his exile proved a blessing. Through her kindness to His prophet, God blessed her in basket and in store. There was enough to eat.

More than this. When her son took sick and died, Elijah, in answer to prayer, was granted the miraculous power to restore her son to life. Joy filled her heart and gladness reigned in her home.

Blessing—this is what came because she had received God's representative into her home.

Blessing is what we receive when we have God's Holy Temple in our midst.

Perennial blessing, because of Church Extension, comes to the whole Church.

Some one may ask, "What Is Church Extension?" Let us try to understand what we mean by Church Extension. It is a part of the great work of Home Missions. Its particular purpose is to provide suitable houses of worship. The primary object in Church Extension is to aid mission congregations to secure permanent houses of worship. It is not limited to this. Congregations, too, that are destitute but deserving also are aided. Church Extension is thus a process of lengthening the cords and strengthening the stakes of the Church. How? By arousing the interest and the sympathy of the members of the Church to the need of others, and by obtaining their help to provide suitable places in which the struggling congregation may worship.

No denomination in America has laid upon its shoulders under God, so heavy and so important a task as that placed upon the American Lutheran Church. She is an ecumenical church, with an enormous diaspora. God has called our Lutheran Church from all the Luther lands to this country. He has endowed her with a spirit for witnessing. To meet the full measure of the responsibility God has placed upon her, the Lutheran Church must organize missions and house the mission congregation. This requires the work of Church Extension.

First we have the home missionary. He studies the field and gathers the people into a congregation. This mission congregation worships either in a house, a store or a hall. To prosper, both the missionary and his faithful people realize they have one thing needful. This need is to have their own house of worship to insure permanency and growth.

Our Lutheran Church has the benefit of years of experience in church erection. Many of our older American churches are now in what might be called "the stone age." The modern stately edifice, so impressive to the beholder, has replaced the earlier brick and still earlier plain frame buildings.

In building the Church today, we must endeavor to create a spirit and enthusiasm like that which caused our forefathers to spend their scanty means and to toil with devout hands to build the structures that first gathered the congregations that are now putting into stone and glass and mosaic those offerings to God made possible because of the sacrifices of the past. It is the spirit in which some of our people who build the structures on the frontier and in the mission work of our cities must labor. Without love and devotion, enthusiasm and faith, we cannot hope to do the work of Church Extension.

The Church has advocated the establishment of special loan funds, the principle of which was never to be dissipated, and whose influences were to extend all over our vast country until time should be no more. The wisdom of this action of the Church, and its foresight has been vindicated repeatedly. As the years roll on it will be more so.

The Church Extension Fund is primarily a loan fund. It is never given. It is always used, but never spent. "A useful servant sent out on an errand of helpfulness, that comes back to be sent again; a flywheel of missions carrying a congregation over the dead point. Non-interest bearing loans are granted for three or five years to needy congregations for the purchase of lot and building. It is a friend in need. A mortgage is taken to secure the loan so that it may not be lots. Every contributor to Church Extension starts a stream of blessing through the Church to turn the wheels of mission industry for untold years." Thus the money keeps rotating, and returns again and again in blessing on the Church.

In the new towns and villages of the West, as well as in the suburban sections of our growing cities, both east and west,

(*Continued on page* 38.)

Junior and Intermediate Luther League

BY REV. ARTHUR T. MICHLER, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

The Topics

With this issue of the REVIEW, the two sets of Topics appear. To economize space, the outlines printed in advance will be discontinued. The Intermediate Topics are the same as the Senior Topics, only prepared differently. Any suggestions for their betterment will be welcomed by the chairman of the Committee. We will be glad to hear from our Leagues on this or any League subject.

JANUARY 7.

"The Winged Book."

By Miss Laura Wade Rice.

Year Topic—There is a wonderful book, now found in all parts of the earth. The Bible is God's message and He wants all people to receive it. A mission is an errand and a missionary is one sent by God to carry His messages.

Missionary—"The Author of the Book."

Scripture Lesson—Gen. 1:1-10; Job 38:1 and 4-7; Gen. 1:16, 17; Gen. 3:8-12; Ezekiel 33:10, 11. Use in order.

Leader's Talk—Point of contact: Ask who owns a Bible. Hold one up. Ask *if*—and then *why* it is different from other books. Get reasons. Make its spread everywhere a reason—as if it had wings.

A book is valuable because of who wrote it and what it tells. More and more, Bibles are printed each year. Their author and their message make them valuable. The Bible tells what took place before man was created, only God could tell that story, so He must be its author. His words are messengers from His heart. Light, air, water, earth obeyed His word. Adam and Eve disobeyed. So sin came and God's book was written to carry His messages of salvation.

For the Meeting—Sin made people want to forget God and not teach their children to obey Him, so there came to be heathen.

All men worship and bring gifts to some unseen power. Some make idols to represent that power. They soon believe the idol of wood, stone or mud has power itself. Some have books about their gods.

Even the heathen know they are sinners. They make plans to get rid of sin. In India they wash in sacred rivers or lie on beds of spikes. Everywhere they travel long journeys to holy places to be set free from sin.

No man can plan the way, but God in His book tells how to get rid of sin. This makes the Bible different from all other books, because God knows. He promised Eve that one of her family should conquer sin and Satan and save men.

Noah, Abraham, Daniel, the little Syrian maid and many other Old Testament heroes were God's messengers or missionaries to get people acquainted with Him so as to be saved from sin.

God told holy men to write His messages. His book has gone all over the world and changed men's ways and hearts and caused their souls to be saved. The Bible overthrows idols and their temples are neglected.

Practical Hints—Let Juniors count "And God said" in Genesis 1:1. Find Ps. 33:9. Ask for stories of Old Testament messengers. Show idols or pictures of them. Show pictures of devotees trying to get rid of sin. Tell of Helen Keller, deaf, dumb and blind, shut in the prison of her body till her teacher taught her words. God's words reveal His heart. Ask for verses to show what God is like. Missionaries study languages of heathen for words to tell of God. Ask how Leaguers' words show if they know Him and are His messengers to others. Plan ways to show. Ask what messages they know.

Prayer—Dear Lord, help us to learn Thy messages and be Thy messengers.—Amen.

JANUARY 14.

"Children of Bethlehem."

By Francis C. Leupold.

Scripture Lesson—Matt. 2:16-18.

General Lesson—Because the Wise Men did not do as Herod said, he became so angry that he commanded all of the children in Bethlehem to be killed. He did this thinking to be able to include in the wholesale murder the infant Christ. But his murderous hatred failed. God takes care of His own.

Point of Contact—If you hate anyone you will do all sorts of things to show it. You will speak meanly, do ugly things, and even try to injure the one you hate. But if you love anyone, you will do the opposite. Which does Jesus want you to feel and do?

The Story Told—Our topic today speaks of the awful murder of innocent children in Bethlehem. Just think of this terrible crime, children under two years of age, defenseless, having never done any wrongs to anyone, but who in their short lives have only brought joy and happiness to the mothers who so tenderly cared for them, cruelly and wickedly killed.

Who is the murderer? Herod, a man big in stature only, but otherwise an insignificant coward, afraid of every thing and everybody.

Picture now in your mind Christmas night. The wise men have seen the star in the east and having followed, it has taken them to the manger where they find a fond mother with her baby. Who is this baby? None other than Jesus the Christ, who in such a lowly manner has come to redeem the sin stricken world. These wise men had told Herod that they were going to follow the star and he (Herod) has told them to stop on their way back and tell him what they had seen. There was known, however, to God the wickedness of Herod and God told the wise men to go home another way and not back by the way they came. It is then when Herod realized that the wise men have disregarded his request that he determines to rid the world of any child that should be so wonderful. He issued the order that all children from two years down should be slain. This he ordered so the child Jesus would be also slain. But Jesus was not sent into the world to be slain by a king when only a baby, for the day for his being slain had not come, so God in a dream tells the mother and father to flee from Bethlehem so Christ might escape the murderous hand of Herod. So His parents take Him to Egypt. He grew up to manhood and did the work for which God had sent Him. And so while the great number of innocent children were being slain, the One child whom Herod wanted most to come under his order had escaped.

Practical Hints—Describe Bethlehem. Se-

lect a story on "God's Care for Us"; also on "God's Love for the Children." Does hatred ever pay? How can we help little children today?

JANUARY 21.

"Luther's Boyhood."

By Francis C. Leupold.

Scripture Lesson—II Tim. 3:14-15.

General Lesson—Luther, like Timothy, was brought up in the Christian faith. He knew the Bible. This is one thing he learned. It made a strong boy of him because Jesus lived in him. Faith was a very real thing for Luther and it was this that made him wise unto salvation.

Point of Contact—Every boy and girl likes to be strong and healthy. None of us likes to be sick. But strength means food and exercise. This is true of our souls. If we want to be strong in spirit, we must feed on the Bible and exercise in good deeds.

The Story Told—Martin Luther was a real boy, like the boys today, and although born more than four hundred years ago, you will find that he played, went to school and was fond of fun and all those other things that make up the real boys of today.

Every Junior should read the life of Luther. We trust that if you have not, that you will in connection with this topic read at least that part of his life which treats of his boyhood.

Luther was born and reared somewhat after the fashion of most of the Junior Leaguers of today. Born of Christian parents, who were not Christians in name only, but who showed in their daily life the important force that Christianity plays, Luther had a stern Christian training. He went to school, had his fun and his playmates, so in his daily life there was a very important place for his religious duties.

We take our text from this portion of Timothy because we believe that it was the force of this activity in the boy Luther that made him what he was in his matured life. It was Luther the Christian boy that made Luther the Christian man, the monk, the preacher, the emancipator, the hero, the martyr and the father of the Protestant Church.

Now just what do we mean by the daily Christian boyhood of Luther? Remember that he was much like you in his daily routine. He went to school, was a part in boys' games and had his studies, his playmates, and at home his toys. His home life was similar to that of most of us, but in addition he had that Christian side of his daily program that counted for so much. There was the daily family worship led by his father; the morning and evening prayers; the daily Bible readings; the prayers before and after each meal; all inspired by the teachings of his strict yet loving parents. As his secular studies made him a teacher, so his scriptural studies made him a preacher.

Practical Hints—Essay on "Luther's Parents and Home." Are the boys of today worse than Luther and his chums? Are we as much in earnest as Luther? Is the Bible as dear to us as in Luther's case? Recitation:

"Then here's to our boyhood, its gold and its gray
The stars of the winter, the dews of its May
And when we have done with our life lasting toys,
Dear Father, take care of Thy children, the boys."
—Holmes.

JANUARY 28.

"Helping at Home."

By Francis C. Leupold.

Scripture Lesson—Eph. 6:1-3.

General Lesson—In this passage St. Paul speaks of obedience to parents as the most important duty for children to practise. It also includes honoring parents and doing all we can for them. Let us notice, too, that this commandment includes a promise.

Point of Contact—Have your parents done anything for you, my young friend? Of course they have. You could mention a great many things they do for you daily. Now see to it that you do something daily for them. This will be following out the lesson of our topic and in it you will inherit a blessing.

The Story Told—The sweetest thing in all the world is the love between parents and children. But do we always show our love for our parents or are we willing to do for them all they ask? How many boys and girls when they come home from school would rather do something for mother than play with the children in the neighborhood? Is it not that we try to shirk some help we can give to mother and run off and play, almost forgetful of the one who has probably toiled all day doing something especially for us? Consider your mother and father first, and do for them such things as will assist them in their work and you will be surprised how much time you will still have for play and how much more you will enjoy yourself. There is a certain satisfaction that you will feel after having done something for somebody and how much more that satisfaction is when you have done something for such dear ones as your parents.

But this is not the only reason, God has commanded it. He in turn promises that we shall be rewarded if we obey this law. Does it not teach you in a forceful way that we have here not only a pleasure in honoring, obeying and serving our parents, but have it as a duty?

There are many things that every boy and girl can do in every home. So how shall we start?

Go to your mother and tell her what your topic has been today and that you have determined to obey it a little more in the future than you have in the past.

Tell her you want to obey more fully this law of God because it will be pleasing to Him and will merit His reward and will bring a little closer relationship between you and your mother and the duties in your home in which you can help.

But the assistance is not alone to be confined to mother, oh, no, father needs assistance, too, and he will be so happy when you tell him that the topic today has turned your attention to this necessary subject.

Then tell your playmates of your plan to assist your parents. They may catch the spirit, too, and while you are doing your duties in the home they will be doing the same and when you do gather for real play you will have such interesting tales to tell of real work done, in a real home, in a real way, that it will be real pleasure for you.

Practical Hints—Emphasize the words—Obedience and Promise with use of the blackboard. Tell a story illustrating this topic. Essay on "How I Can Help at Home."

JANUARY 7.

"Some Results of Our Work in India."

By Ida H. Zinser.

Scripture Lesson—Romans 10:11-15.

General Truth—God doesn't observe any lines of race or nation. His bounty is for the need of all, but He desires to be *asked* for His riches. His wonderful gift of salvation is offered to all who call upon Him. A multitude of earth's people are waiting to hear of this gift and the Giver. When Christ was on earth a few chosen ones were appointed to fulfil the prophecy "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel." These were the first apostles from whom has grown a noble army of the world's missionaries.

Point of Contact—How does this lesson touch us. Do we hear a call to join this toiling army of workers in God's vineyard in the uttermost parts of the earth? Does He want us to bear His tidings afar or will we be among those who will help to send others. If our choice is to share in sending, and not going, let us keep our eyes open to our missionaries' needs, our ears ready to hear their call for help, and our hands ever "holding the ropes."

Lesson for Leader—As there are causes for results in any work, let us go back to some Lutheran beginnings in India, out of which have come results. We see today the fruit of the labors of two Halle University students, sent out in 1706, Bartholomew Ziegenbalg and Henry Plutschau, whose work in India began eighty-seven years before that of William Carey.

When Ziegenbalg died—at the age of thirty-six—he left 350 converts and a great number of catechumens in Tamil land to mourn his loss and had translated the New Testament and other literature into Tamil.

Some years later another ardent missionary, Christian Frederick Schwartz, in 1750, landed at Tranquebar and began his splendid work.

Then came a great interval before the larger work of our church was established. Into this new field, Telugu land, there came, in 1842, from America, a man with a zeal for work, the beloved "Father" Heyer, who planted the two fields, Guntur and Rajahmundry, both bearing fruit a hundred fold today. We cannot speak of results for good in these fields without remembering one who is loved and honored in his "dear" India and his homeland, Rev. J. H. Harpster, the man with a burning passion for India.

In addition to the work of the General Council and General Synod, other American, German and Scandinavian societies have many large stations. Large results of work in these fields are: Churches, prayer-houses, schools, dispensaries, hospitals, and a leper colony that is called one of the most "successful results of Christian missions that the world can show." Smaller results are: A high caste Hindu presenting the site for a girl's school, a little prince coming to the hospital for healing, the opening of a closed door to the missionary doctor, a faithful teacher celebrating her silver anniversary, a school sending two girls to the new college in Madras, a boys' Luther League celebrating its fourth anniversary in 1916. These are results worth while.

Special Papers—"Father Heyer and His World Vision." "A Visit to Dr. Kugler in the Guntur Hospital and to Dr. Nilsson in the Rajahmundry Hospital." "Purulia—the Successful Leper Colony." "The Missionary Bishop of Tanjore and 'King-priest.'"

JANUARY 14.

"When Young People Leave Their Home Towns."

By Prof. H. G. Deininger.

Scripture Lesson—Genesis 12:1-9.

General Truths—Hold fast to God at all times in all places. God's blessing rests especially on His children.

Point of Contact—Worship and serve the Lord, thy God, not only in your home town or church but in whatever city you may be.

Lesson Developed—Abraham left Haran by God's command and journeyed to Canaan. God makes known to him that He will greatly bless him and his decendants and will give him the land of Canaan. In this strange land Abraham does not forget God, but builds an altar and worships Him.

Thousands of years have elapsed since Abraham's journey but the facts are still true. Men, women, boys, girls and entire families are continually moving from city to city in this great land. Sometimes they remain in the new place but for a short time, in other cases they remain permanently.

God, of course, is in the new city as well as in the old and should be worshipped and obeyed there as well as in the home town. But alas, too often is God forgotten. It may be the change of daily life or the new surroundings assist in causing an indifference to church activity or church worship.

The great cities have many who though they were active in their home church yet fail to continue to do so in their new home or when away from home. Each Sunday should find us in God's house whether we are away from home for a week, a month or a year.

If you are leaving your home town ask your pastor to refer you to the nearest Lutheran Church in the new city, or if on a visit look up the nearest Lutheran Church and attend the services. Be careful in the selection of a boarding house. The Lutheran hospice will surely be a splendid place or, if crowded, will refer you to other excellent places. So live that you will not be ashamed to face God or your own friends at home.

Suggestive Hints—Seek the strangers in your neighborhood. Have some member present the value of a house to house canvass near the church and invite strangers to come. Your League can do this.

Greet the strangers at the church service. Have some one tell how this can be done systematically and tell its value.

Are the services of your church announced on a placard in the hotels of your city?

Papers—"The Movement Cityward." "Dont's for Traveling Young People."

JANUARY 21.

"What Our Church Has Done in Madagascar."

By Ida H. Zinser.

Scripture Lesson—Acts 16:9-13.

Thoughts on Lesson—Paul came to Macedonia quite contrary to his plans. Just before this he and Silas had been twice forbidden to go where they planned, and then at Troas came the pleading cry, from an untried place, "Come over and help us." Paul's view of the needs of people was not a narrow one. He could see the want beyond his own dwelling place, and would answer a call from the end of the earth. Let us carry the world in our vision and be ready to heed the plea "Come over," though it carry us far from friends and home.

Point of Contact—Have we great ideas and

large visions for our life work? Are we making big plans? Plan to fill them full as Paul and Silas were filling their days—don't let your visions of work be small ones. Have large visions and keep the whole world, not just a little corner of it, before you. Then remember your plans may be overturned, but keep your vision of high things and be ready to go in another direction as God wills it.

Lesson for Leader—To one branch only, in our Lutheran Church, the Norwegian, has the call come to carry the message of God's love to the Malagasy people. Christian missions were first planted in Madagascar in 1818—but there were persecutions from 1835 to 1861—nearly two hundred native martyrs going bravely to death for the love of their Master. In 1862 mission work was again started—and has steadily grown since that time. The vision came to our Norwegian church in 1867—when they entered the Prvoince of Betsilec. There are many Norwegian and some American missionaries—deaconesses from the Deaconess Home in Chicago, among these 96 native pastors and 900 catechists, two medical missionaries, a leper asylum, schools and printing offices. Two names worthy of special mention are Rahle, who established a seminary for native workers, and Doctor Borchgrevink, medical missionary. There are about 84,000 Lutherans on the island now, and missionary historians give much praise to the work of the Lutheran Missionaries.

Special Papers—"The Government of Madagascar." "1869—A Queen and Prince Minister." "A Lesson in Physical Geography in Madagascar."

JANUARY 28.

"What Church Extension Means."

By Prof. H. G. Deininger.

Scripture Lesson—I Kings 17:8-16.

General Truths—God's blessing rests on those who do His will. Our Heavenly Father provides for His children in time of need.

Point of Contact—The Church Extension Society, furthering the cause of the Church, helps many struggling missions when they need assistance most. God's blessing surely rests on the money loaned. It is returned to the treasury of the society to be used to help build another church.

Lesson Developed—In its broadest sense the topic means an increase or extension of a belief in Jesus Christ, but its meaning is usually confined to an increase in the number of church buildings.

To begin a congregation, some one, usually a field missionary or student for the ministry, gathers the names of Lutherans in the neighborhood. A service for these people is held often in a hall or room over a store or in a place not fitted for church worship. They want to build a church but cannot afford to do so, because of their small numbers or perhaps they are not wealthy enough to do so. They apply to the Church Extension Society for a loan to help them. The Church Extension Society gives them a loan and they are enabled to worship in their own church. If the society cannot help them, they must continue to worship in the unsatisfactory place until they can afford to build.

The congregation with a church building will grow rapidly but the one in a hall usually grows slowly as people are not attracted by such a poor place of worship. What is this Church Extension Society. It is an organization that will lend money to struggling missions, without charging interest, to enable them to get a church building. The fact that no interest is charged is a great help to small congregations.

As soon as it is able the congregation repays the amount to the Church Extension Society. The society uses the money to help another needy congregation. The money thus helps congregation after congregation.

Suggestive Hints—Write to the Church Extension Society of the general Church body to which your congregation belongs for leaflets on the work of the society. Have some read at the meeting. Try to find out some churches that are or have been thus aided. Secure pictures of such churches and point to the cities on a map of the United States.

Papers—"What Our Congregation Is Doing for Church Extension." "The Value of Church Extension." "Does the Cause Need More Money? What Can We Do?"

CHURCH EXTENSION

(*Continued from page* 34.)

there are cases in which the erection of a small inexpensive church, by a small donation, will do more good than the making of an appropriation from the loan fund. For example, if a church or chapel, costing say from $1000 to $4000 can be dedicated free of debt, it is much better to make an absolute donation than to make a large appropriation in the shape of a loan, which would only keep the congregation in debt possibly for years. This is another phase of Church Extension, but it proves a blessing by putting the congregation in a position to grow and become self-sustaining.

Church Extension does not only aid mission congregations. In cases of extreme necessity, relief has been extended to worthy congregations whose efforts have demonstrated the need of aid. And let it be remembered that no congregation is really self-sustaining until it receives no further aid from any agency of the Church. Thus, if a congregation relieves the Home Mission Board from further appropriation, but still is helped by Church Extension fund, or has not settled its claim to the Church Extension fund, it still remains a mission.

Church Extension is a perennial blessing by providing a spiritual center to bring the knowledge of God to mankind and to bring mankind to the knowledge of God.

Church Extension is a blessing because behind it is the honor of a great Church.

Church Extension is a blessing because its securities are free from fluctuating values, and is an investment for everybody. No better investment can parents make for their children, of more real and abiding value, than to put money into a church. At once it begins to do a double service of yielding full earning capacity in the interest of the purchaser, and at the same time in building a place of worship for the Master.